

Dudley

# CHRONICLE



Thursday, June 8, 2017

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## Money could have helped to fund more teachers

# £1m SPENT ON SCRAPPED PLAN

Report by Peter Madeley

SCHOOLS in Dudley borough have spent more than £1 million upgrading kitchens, in readiness for a Government scheme to offer universal free meals, which has since been scrapped.

Figures from a Freedom of Information request show that infant schools in Dudley shelled out £1,068,320 to meet the Government's universal free school meals pledge.

The School Food Plan was brought in by the Coalition Government but is set to be cancelled and replaced with a scheme offering free breakfasts for all primary schoolchildren, according to plans revealed in the Conservative manifesto.

Critics have hit out over the decision, with Labour's Dudley North candidate Ian Austin saying it will leave local families and schools out of pocket. He said: "This is yet another U-turn from the Government that will cost Dudley £1m that could have been spent on educating our children."

The figures show the Government spent £437,477 in Dudley through the Universal Infant Free School Meal Capital Grant, with schools providing match funding.

### Capacity

When the scheme was first announced thousands of schools around the country did not have kitchen capacity to deal with the extra meals for pupils and were forced to upgrade.

Netherthon Church of England Primary spent £243,221, while Tenterfield Primary in Halesowen spent £160,869, and St Edmund and St John in Beechwood Road spent £131,614.

Mr Austin, who has vowed to fight for free school meals if he is re-elected, added: "It's bad enough that local children will miss out on free school meals, but this £1m could have helped plug the £18m drop in Government funding for Dudley schools that could result in a loss of 496 teachers by 2019."

Government figures show that the decision to scrap free school meals for infant school pupils will affect nearly 10,808 youngsters across Dudley, leaving families £450 worse off every year.

Other Dudley schools that spent on the universal free school meals programme include: Blanford Mere Primary, Kingswinford - £54,475; Peters Hill Primary, Brierley Hill - £32,623; Gig Mill Primary, Stourbridge - £29,714; Ridge Primary, Stourbridge - £24,670; Lutley Primary, Halesowen - £17,316; Ham Dingle Primary, Stourbridge - £14,499; Mount Pleasant Primary, Brierley Hill - £13,139.

## DUNCAN'S EARLY DAYS RECREATED FOR A FILM



Filming The Boy who Had It All at the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley with Callum Hay as the young Duncan Edwards

SCENES for a film about the life of Dudley's football legend Duncan Edwards have been shot at the Black Country Living Museum.

The cast and crew of The Boy Who Had It All - along with around 100 extras - descended on the tourist attraction on Monday.

The project is the brainchild of Dudley filmmaker Marcus Distant who is hoping to create a finished film of between 10 to 13 minutes long, which will be uploaded to YouTube.

Filming began last year with several scenes shot at Dudley Cemetery on Stourbridge Road.

This week at the Black Country Living Museum the cameras were rolling by the canal and youngster Cameron Hay was portraying the Manchester United and England hero in his formative years.

Mr Distant, said: "The film starts off a bit like Titanic, in the 'present', and then goes back in time."

"We filmed last year at his graveside and by his statue and that will all be in the 'present' time. The stuff we are doing here at the Black Country Living Museum will be like a memory."

"We have got about 100 extras that we are going to film to try and recreate Dudley town in the 1940s."

Mr Distant added that filming at the site would take around one day and the film could be screened for the first time in August.

The project itself has come about thanks to a crowdfunding campaign which raised £5,000.

The writer and director spent more than a year conducting in depth research about the player, who died of injuries sustained in the 1958 Munich air disaster.

### MISSING

## Graves exhumed in search for Natalie

DETECTIVES investigating the 2003 disappearance of teenage Dudley mother Natalie Putt were on Tuesday exhuming several graves in a bid to establish what happened to her.

Police say 'new information' has led them to begin digging up 'a number of graves' at Ruiton Cemetery off Duke Street in Upper Gornal.

Natalie, 17, left behind her 11-week-old son, Rhys, when she left her home in Thornleigh, Lower Gornal, to go to a shop in September 2003. She has not been seen since.

Police carried out searches of land, rivers and lakes, after her disappearance.

Detective Inspector Ian Iliffe, of West Midlands Police's cold case review team, said: "All cases are periodically reviewed and the disappearance of Natalie has led us to believe that we are looking at a murder enquiry."

"We have had no positive sightings of Natalie in all these years and there has never been any financial activity connected to her bank accounts or any access to health services across the country, which points to the fact that she is no longer alive."

"Following a review of the information we have received, we have been granted permission to exhume a number of graves in Ruiton Cemetery, off Duke Street, in Upper Gornal."

"We also believe that at least two people know what has led us to this site and they may have further information which could assist our search. We would very much like to hear from them."

### COURT

## More inquiries over Megan death case

A JUDGE has allowed more time for investigations into the death of a teenager whose body was found in a clingfilm-wrapped wardrobe at a flat in Brierley Hill.

Ashley Foster, aged 24, who is charged with preventing the lawful and decent burial of Megan Bills, appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Monday. Prosecution and defence made a joint application for a further two weeks for more inquiries.

Police found the body of 17-year-old Miss Bills at the Highgate Road flat.

Foster was remanded in custody to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on June 21.

**INSIDE  
ELECTION –  
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# Raider jailed after he was confronted by resident

A WOMAN found a raider trying to break into her home when she went to investigate after hearing a noise

Ryan Sheldon, who had already raided the garden shed, was standing at the back door and holding a large spanner, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

"The woman was absolutely petrified, thinking he was going to smash the window," said Mr Neil Ahuja, prosecuting. "She told him to leave but he did not move until she started swearing. Then he began to walk away pulling a blue suitcase."

The 28-year-old broke into a run when told the police had been called and was followed by the woman who saw him climb over a fence into an alleyway.

Then her partner and nephew reached the scene and detained the culprit until officers arrived.

The blue suitcase held tools stolen from the garden shed while around £400 worth of damage had been done to the back door of the house in New Street, Quarry Bank.

Mr Stephen Hamblett, defending, said Sheldon, who had 23 previous convictions involving 33 offences, had mental health problems and a "chronic drug addiction".

Sheldon, of Northfield Road, Netherton, was jailed for a year after pleading guilty to attempting to burgle the house and breaking into the shed.

Judge Michael Challinor told him: "The woman is still feeling the effects in that she does not feel safe in her own home."

## Second teenager on murder charge

A SECOND teenager has been charged with the murder of a father-of-two from Netherton.

Damilola Johnson, 18, is accused of killing Simon Johnson, who is not a relation.

On Saturday, a 16-year-old boy, who cannot be named due to legal reasons, appeared at Walsall Magistrates Court, also charged with the 41-year-old's murder.

It brings the number of people charged as part of the investigation to three. A 16-year-old is accused of burglary on the same night Mr Johnson was found dead.

Simon Johnson, a window fitter, was found at his home on Cradley Road on August 16. He died from stab wounds.

## Jobs at risk as 2 Sisters plant shuts

MORE than 200 jobs have gone and 90 are at risk as the 2 Sisters Food Group announced one of its plants is to close. Of 630 working at the plant in Smethwick, 250 have taken voluntary redundancy and 290 redeployed.

# Burglar pleads guilty to murder attempt



Scene of the vicious attack on the guard

A BURGLAR has admitted the attempted murder of a factory security guard, aged 73, after attacking him with a shovel as he lay defenceless on the ground.

CCTV footage at Stoke Forgings in Brierley Hill showed Lee Parsons raining blows on his victim. Parsons kept up the savage attack for almost 20 minutes, kicking the guard in the head and stomach and leaving a trail of blood as he tried to drag him into an office.

The 44-year-old was also seen going through the victim's pockets.

After it was played at Wolverhampton Crown Court Parsons changed his plea to guilty.

The two men had initially sparred with sticks until the defendant picked up the shovel and battered Mr Mattu until he fell on the ground. The victim, who kept trying to get to his feet, suffered serious head injuries and was in a critical condition in hospital for several days.

The assault at the Vine Street metal factory on March 19 shocked workers who discovered the injured guard when they arrived at 7pm for

the night shift. He had lain there for almost six hours. Parsons was arrested two days later in Holly Hall.

Mr Hugh O'Brien Quinn, prosecuting, told the court that the victim now needed full-time care, could walk only with a frame and was on 27 tablets a day. He was commended by Judge James Burbridge for his "remarkable resilience and bravery".

Parsons, of no fixed abode, pleaded guilty to attempted murder and burglary. He was remanded in custody until July 3 when he will be sentenced.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Rugby club host food and crafts

A FOOD and craft festival at Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club this weekend is in aid of Compton Hospice.

The outdoor event will be held between 10am and 6pm on Saturday, and aims to showcase local traders and crafters. Organiser Vicki Wootton said: "This is the first food and craft festival the hospice has organised and we are looking forward to seeing a range of artisan stalls showcasing the best of the Midlands has to offer."

Tickets cost £2.50 for adults with under-12s free. For more information call Vicki on 0845 225 5497.

### Tread the boards with X-Factor star

THE public are being offered a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to perform alongside X-Factor icon Wagner Carrillo - in a charity pantomime.

The Dudley-based Brazilian finished sixth in the ITV talent show in 2010. He will be playing the wizard in Mary Stevens Hospice's production of The Wizard of Oz at the Brierley Hill Civic Hall in January 2018. The first round of auditions will be held on June 21, at 6.30pm, at the Stourbridge Institute. Parts available include Dorothy. Sign up for auditions at marystevenshospice.co.uk/pantomime-auditions

### Tenants move out of doomed flats

MORE than 100 tenants have moved out of four high-rise flats that are due to be demolished.

A total of 107 residents have now moved out of four tower blocks in Netherton.

Arley Court, Compton Court, Manor Court and Wells Court have been earmarked for demolition by Dudley Council by 2023. Bosses decided the blocks, built in the 1960s, were no longer sustainable, as they need over £9 million on maintenance.

### Fun for all the family at village country fair

KINVER Country Fair is being held in the South Staffordshire village near Stourbridge on Sunday, June 18.

The event begins at 11am with a parade of vintage vehicles along the High Street. The fair will celebrate the centenary of the National Trust acquiring Kinver Edge.

The arena programme is headlined by equestrian display team, The Calvary of Heroes. Admission costs £6 for adults, children under 12 go free. See www.kinvercountryfayre.com

### Craft session at cone

A PAPER crafts workshop for adults will be taking place at a museum.

The event will be held at the Red House Glass Cone, in Wordsley, on June 16.

It is aimed at people who enjoy talking and socialising. It will run from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

# Hospice patients' life stories to be recorded

**A CHARITY** is helping terminally-ill people record their life stories so family and friends can hear their voices and memories for years to come.

The Hospice Biographers scheme began at Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge this week.

Patients will be interviewed by journalists trained as 'Hospice Biographers' and then given a USB memory stick with the recording on.

Organisers say the audio files will give people the chance to have their stories recorded professionally and free of charge.

The charity will eventually offer the unique service to around 200 hospices across the UK, creating the largest confidential audio library of its kind ever created in Britain. The scheme is being supported by Mary Stevens CEO Steven Jackson.

A hospice spokesman said: "The scheme will see hospice patients record their stories for their own listening pleasure, and to be given as treasured memories to their loved ones and family members."

"Here at the hospice, we think it's a wonderful idea and something we'd love to do for our patients, so we are hoping to find journalists who would be willing to volunteer their time and skills for one day per month, for 10 months of the year."

#### Actor

The Hospice Biographers campaign has been backed by actor David Suchet, who is best known for his role on TV as the detective Hercule Poirot.

He said he wished the charity had been around to record his own mother's voice and memories before she died.

He added: "I want to thank the Hospice Biographers because we will all loose those who are near and dear to us one day and we would love to have actually heard their stories and lives. The Hospice Biographers will now record that for those of us who are left."

Academic research has also been carried out to establish the possible therapeutic benefits that terminally-ill patients and their families may experience as a result of the charity's work.

The Hospice Biographers is a nationwide charity. For more details, see [www.thehospicebiographers.com](http://www.thehospicebiographers.com).

## Organisers warm up for fourth run



Steve Edwards from the Black Country Festival and Rotarian Alan Bowler with members of Cobra Running Club

ORGANISERS are gearing up to hold the fourth Black Country run where up to 1,200 people are expected to take part.

Streets will be closed off in Halesowen when the run takes place on July 2.

Race organisers are encouraging people to sign up for the event, which will offer competitive and non-competitive categories for runners of different abilities.

It has been organised by the

Rotary Club of Halesowen and Rowley Regis. Organiser Alan Bowler said: "We want people to come along and enjoy themselves, get fit and raise money for charity."

"Last year we had around 1,200 people take part so hopefully we can get the same number again."

The event was first held in 2012 in the year of the London Olympics. It has helped to raise more than £100,000 for charity since launching.

The race will begin at 9.45am with a competitive 5km run, where participants will have to complete a set course in 30 minutes. This will be followed by a 10km run held at 10.45am and family run at 11.30am.

Is taking place during, and as part of, the Black Country Festival.

For more information about the race, visit [www.theblackcountryrun.com](http://www.theblackcountryrun.com)

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## Property giant buys five sites

A BLACK Country property company has bought up around 100,000 sq ft of industrial and shop space in a multi-million pound string of deals.

London & Cambridge Properties (LCP), based in Kingswinford, has bought sites in Sheffield and Hull and three parades of shops, two in Derbyshire and one in Brough, near Hull for an undisclosed total.

The firm owns Wolverhampton's Wulfrun shopping centre, Dudley's Churchill Centre, Brierley Hill's Moor Centre, Park Place in Walsall and Aldridge Shopping Centre.

## Commute costs workers 16 days

NEW research has found that 71.7 per cent of workers in Birmingham are losing up to 16 days a year commuting to and from work.

The survey of 1,200 workers, for independent job board CV-Library also indicated that 10.3 per cent commute for up to four hours a day.

The percentage commuting to work five days a week was 81.8 per cent. Of professionals 65.2 per cent say that they enjoy their commute, but 64.7 per cent would relocate for a shorter trip and 56.4 per cent would turn down a job that required a longer commute.

## Landlords using agents is on rise

THE number of landlords who use a letting agent to help manage their property has increased since the end of last year, according to a recent survey of investors.

Research for the National Landlords' Association found 61 per cent currently use a letting agent to manage their properties, a rise of seven per cent since the end of 2016.

The proportion of landlords who self-manage has decreased by nearly 10 per cent over the last year.

## Festival will share ideas for projects

A 'SHARING' festival is taking place over 10 days this month, starting tomorrow (Friday).

Share Fest will see people take part in a variety of projects and provide more than 50 opportunities to share skills and knowledge. It will run until June 18 across Dudley and help increase awareness of projects taking place around the borough.

Organisers are also looking to launch a number of new projects. Visit [www.colabdudley.net](http://www.colabdudley.net) for details.

## Irish folk concert

HIGHLY-RATED Irish folk band The High Kings are in concert at Birmingham's Irish Centre tomorrow night (Friday). The quartet, who play 13 instruments between them, will be on stage at the Digbeth venue at 8pm. For ticket information call 0121 622 2314.

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## GENERAL ELECTION 2017: THE CANDIDATES LINE UP

**DUDLEY NORTH**  
Ian Austin - Labour  
Bill Etheridge - UKIP  
Ben France - Liberal Democrat  
Les Jones - Conservative  
Andrew Nixon - Green

**DUDLEY SOUTH**  
Mitch Bolton - UKIP  
Jon Bramall - Liberal Democrat  
Jenny Maxwell - Green  
Natasha Millward - Labour  
Mike Wood - Conservative

**HALESOWEN & ROWLEY REGIS**  
Ian Cooper - Labour  
Stuart Henley - UKIP  
James Morris - Conservative  
James Robertson - Green  
Jamie Scott - Liberal Democrat  
Tim Weller - Independent

**STOURBRIDGE**  
Christopher Bramall - Liberal Democrat  
Margot James - Conservative  
Pete Lowe - Labour  
Andi Mohr - Green  
Glen Wilson - UKIP



Dudley North  
Ian Austin  
Labour

Dudley North  
Bill Etheridge  
UKIP

Dudley North  
Ben France  
Liberal Democrat

Dudley North  
Les Jones  
Conservative

Dudley North  
Andrew Nixon  
Green



Dudley South  
Mitch Bolton  
UKIP

Dudley South  
Jon Bramall  
Liberal Democrat

Dudley South  
Jenny Maxwell  
Green

Dudley South  
Natasha Millward  
Labour

Dudley South  
Mike Wood  
Conservative



Halesowen Rowley R  
Ian Cooper  
Labour

Halesowen Rowley R  
Stuart Henley  
UKIP

Halesowen Rowley R  
James Morris  
Conservative

Halesowen Rowley R  
James Robertson  
Green

Halesowen Rowley R  
Jamie Scott  
Liberal Democrat

Halesowen Rowley R  
Tim Weller  
Independent

Stourbridge  
Christopher Bramall  
Liberal Democrat

Stourbridge  
Margot James  
Conservative

Stourbridge  
Pete Lowe  
Labour

Stourbridge  
Andi Mohr  
Green

Stourbridge  
Glen Wilson  
UKIP

## Children's home will 'minimise' cuts to jobs

A CHILDREN'S home where dozens of jobs are at risk has said it wants to 'minimise' compulsory redundancies.

Staff at Sunfield Children's Home, at Clent, between Stourbridge and Bromsgrove, are facing an uncertain future after it was announced all staff roles would be reviewed.

The independent special school employs more than 300 people and has recently been taken over by Ruskin Mill, which runs the Glasshouse College in Stourbridge and Ruskin Mill College in Gloucestershire.

Sunfield Principal Caroline Bell said had Ruskin Mill not stepped in, the home in Clent would have had to close.

A consultation is now under way with workers while discussions are being held with unions.

The home supports 38 children and young people aged between six and 19, many who have severe learning difficulties.

Ms Bell said: "I want to stress that we are very keen to minimise compulsory redundancies if we can, and have been looking at a range of other measures as part of an overall review.

"Our proposed reorganisation is not just about getting things back on to a firmer financial footing - it is also intended to set the school on a path to improvement and long term stability that will allow it to continue its vitally important work."

She added: "This is obviously an unsettling time, in fairness, to all those involved."

## Funds top £7k in memory of victim

A FUNDRAISING appeal for the funeral of a man killed in a suspected hit-and-run in Halesowen has raised more than £7,000.

Benjamin Morse, aged 36, died when he was hit by a car at around 12.15am on May 1.

Police charged a 21-year-old man on suspicion of Mr Morse's murder two weeks ago.

The fundraising page on the Just Giving website was aiming to raise £6,000 for the funeral of Arsenal fan Mr Morse, but donations have already surpassed £7,794.

A statement on the page states: "Due to the sheer number who have requested details of where they can donate to the funeral/celebration of Ben's life, we have decided to create this funding avenue."

## NHS plea for more donors to give blood

AN APPEAL has been made for blood donors. NHS Blood and Transplant are holding sessions at Darkhouse Baptist Church in Coseley on June 12 between 1.30pm and 3.30pm and 4.30 and 7.30pm. Call 0300 123 2323 or see [www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk) website.

# Hospital is looking at total ban on smoking

PATIENTS and visitors using a hospital could be stopped from smoking on the grounds within weeks.

Bosses at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital are looking at going smoke-free by the end of the summer.

It could see chiefs remove existing smoker shelters around the site.

The hospital currently allows smoking only in designated areas.

Dudley's Councillor Peter Miller, cabinet member for health and well-being, said: "I think making the hospital smoke-free is good news."

"One of the worst things when you go there is having to walk through people smoking. I've always found it unbelievable that patients are allowed out of wards and stand pretty much outside the doors to smoke."

Stevie Benton, communications manager at Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), a campaigning public health charity, said: "Smoke-free hospitals are an important part of helping motivate people to quit smoking."

"They are most successful when part of a joined up approach which includes access to smoking cessation services for those who want to quit."

The Dudley Group Directors' blog states: "The Trust will be considering its options regarding going smoke free over the next few months. One of the options open to the trust is to make our sites entirely smoke-free and therefore remove the existing smoking shelters."

"We are keen to engage with staff, patients and visitors on our options and listen to feedback."

## Royle guest at antique auction

ACTOR Ricky Tomlinson will appear at a Black Country auction house with a fellow Liverpudlian actor as part of a BBC antiques show.

The Royle Family star and former fellow Brookside actor Michael Starke will appear in Celebrity Antiques Road Trip, to be filmed at Fieldings Auctioneers in Stourbridge this weekend. The show sees antiques experts and celebrities travelling around the country competing to find the best treasures to be sold at auction.

Filming is at the auction on Saturday, which starts at 10am with viewing from 8am, with viewing also today (Thursday) from 10am to 4pm, and tomorrow between 10am and 8pm.

[www.fieldingsauctioneers.co.uk](http://www.fieldingsauctioneers.co.uk) for further details.

## Road to be closed for street cleaning

A ROAD in Sedgley will be closed on Sunday from 6am to 1pm. Cotwall End Road will be closed to enable street cleaning work to be carried out. Diversions will be in place on Longfellow Road and Sandyfields Road.

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How the new Next store will look

# Next moving to former Sainsbury's site

THE former Sainsbury's supermarket at Merry Hill is to become one of the biggest Next stores in the UK, shopping centre owner intu has revealed.

The multi-million development will include Next's homeware range, an outlet for the Lipsy fashion brand and a coffee shop when it opens next spring. The deal, which follows months of talks between intu and Next, is part of the shopping centre owner's ambitious £100 million plan to transform Merry Hill.

Intu says it has worked closely with Next on plans to convert the for-

mer Sainsbury's at the centre into a 75,680 sq ft store. It follows the decision of the supermarket chain to pull out last Christmas.

Nick Round, regional director at intu, said: "We will be working closely with Next to build a fantastic space for what will be one of their biggest UK stores."

"Next's significant investment at intu Merry Hill reflects our own long term commitment to the centre and the confidence that exists in it as a destination where brands can really flourish. Our plans are to attract even

more great brands and create compelling experiences for customers across the West Midlands."

Mr Round said the new Next will extend the original Sainsbury's footprint of 60,000 sq ft, taking in the site of one of the shopping centre's three Burger Kings and extending the 20ft ceilings by another 10ft, installing a 4,500 sq ft mezzanine.

"It will have a new design, new layout and new format, creating a new flagship store for Next that will help bring more shoppers to Merry Hill," he said.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Ex-Wolves boss is guest at dinner

FORMER Wolves manager Dean Saunders will be speaking at an event at a Dudley hotel.

The 56-year-old former Wales international, who also played for Aston Villa and Liverpool, will be talking about his career at the three-course dinner, which will be hosted by former sports presenter Bob Hall. There will also be an auction of sporting memorabilia and a comedian.

The event is at the Village Dudley, Castlegate Park, on June 30 at 7pm. Tickets cost £24 and are available on (01384) 888830.

### Park is to host Bookstart event

A SPECIAL event is being held in a Stourbridge park as part of National Bookstart Week.

The parents of under-fives are being invited to come along with their children to Mary Stevens Park, off Worcester Street, today (Thursday), from 11am to 1pm.

There will be advice and ideas on getting young children interested in reading including through storytelling.

National Bookstart Week started on Monday and runs until Sunday, June 11.

### Post office move is in the pipeline

A SIX-WEEK consultation has been launched by a post office over plans to relocate the service.

Ocker Hill Post Office, in Tipton, could be moved to Powis Avenue Stores.

Bosses say the change would lead to longer opening hours of up to 83 hours a week.

The post office is now inviting customers to give their views.

The public consultation period will close on July 14.

### Hall hosts discos to help voluntary service

AN entertainment firm is hosting two of its Ultimate Decades events at Brierley Hill Civic Hall this month.

The Ultimate Entertainments events take place on Friday, June 16, and Friday, June 30, both starting at 8pm. They will feature a DJ, big screens and dancefloor.

Tickets are £6 on the door or £5 via [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk) if booked in advance.

All proceeds will go to the Dudley Council for Voluntary Service.

### All aboard for trip

A BOAT trip is being held on Sunday from Stourbridge's Bonded Warehouse. The trip along the Stourbridge Canal will leave from the venue on Canal Street in Stourbridge at 2.30pm and travel to Stourton Locks, before returning at 5pm. Tickets cost £8 adults, £6 children, £22 family.

## Families explore park on nature trail



Families took part in a nature walk at Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge, organised by Vicki Smith, right. CHILDREN enjoyed a close-up view of the area's wildlife on a special nature walk in Stourbridge.

Fourteen families attended the Signs of Spring Walk at Mary Stevens Park last week.

Park ranger Debra Merrick said: "It was a great day, all of the children learnt something new about wildlife. They loved going around the park, feeding the fish and the birds."

Children were able to make their own bird's nests at the free event and were rewarded with chocolate eggs for their efforts.

#### Flower

The walk also included bird-spotting, mini-beast hunting and flower recognition.

Ms Merrick said: "We are trying to do more and more for wildlife at the park and it is really good to

see children getting involved. We will continue to run events like this in the future."

The park has taken a number of measures to encourage more wildlife to visit the park, including building a duck hotel, creating special areas of long grass and putting up more bird feeders.

The walk was organised with the Bradley Heath community company Walk Works, which promotes guided walks.

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# It's time to invest in something really funny

A NEW study by an academic at Birmingham City University reveals great swathes of the population crying out for what is now known as a "traditional sitcom", ie one that is funny.

Reactions were analysed on three sitcoms, the slapstick *Miranda*, the American 1980s period comedy *Everybody Hates Chris*, and the joke-free romantic comedy *Gavin & Stacey*.

She said *Gavin & Stacey* divided opinion: "Some viewers really enjoyed feeling invested in the characters and their relationships, others argued that the lack of jokes suggested that the writers just weren't able to make a 'real' sitcom."

Two things spring to mind. Firstly, couldn't they find three better comedies than this? How about *Dad's Army*? *Reginald Perrin*? *One Foot in the Grave*?

And who actually finds *Gavin and Stacey* funny? I saw it once, it didn't raise a single laugh. Not one. If I want to feel "invested", I will call my stockbroker.

□ □ □

ANOTHER glossy card from my local car dealer, telling me that as a VIP customer I will be allowed to attend a special, invitation-only event, where I will get the opportunity to, er, buy a car.

Which begs the question of what would happen if somebody turned up uninvited, with a big sack of money, offering to pay list price for the most expensive car in the showroom. Presumably a couple of burly bouncers would bundle them out, telling them gatecrashers are not welcome. Or maybe I'm becoming a cynic.

□ □ □

A COUPLE of weeks ago I argued that as there was no significant rail network in the Black Country, people here would find it hard to stomach paying more tax to subsidise well-heeled commuters in London. Environmentalist Tim Weller has been in touch, and raises some interesting questions which do deserve answers.

Tim calls for the reopening of the mothballed line connecting Stourbridge and Dudley to Burton-upon-Trent which would effectively open-up a 75-mile link between Worcester and Derby, as well as putting the Black Country back on the national rail map.

But instead, for reasons never properly explained, the powers-that-be seem intent on using a small piece of that valuable line, from Wednesbury to Brierley Hill, for the "bus on rails" that is the Midland Metro. This would make it impossible to run a proper rail service on that stretch.

Tim wonders why the Metro, which would cost £30 million per km to install, is favoured over restoring the old rail service, which would cost less than £6 million per km. Maybe somebody would like to challenge this but it seems to me that the Black Country would benefit far more from a fast rail service linking it to the rest of the country than a slow tram running for just a few miles.

A SECOND reader takes up the cudgels

# Blue Peter legend's passing among the politics



RIP John Noakes, a proper children's TV daredevil, seen with his beloved Shep



Dianne Abbott, who says she has moved on from her previous stance on Northern Ireland



The ginormously talented TV historian Lucy Worsley, not skirting the scheduled issue

# TALKING POINT

## Sat navs will send us round the bend

SO, the sat nav's on, we've got a half a pack of cigarettes, it's dark and we're wearing sunglasses... Hit it!

But hold on a minute Elwood - why are we going down this single carriageway track?

Yes, not exactly going according to plan with the Blues Brothers' movie script, as they start on their journey across America - in the film which surely is the antithesis of 'satnavism'.

And yet, from December, UK learner drivers will be expected to ditch their map and sign reading skills - as knowing how to use the computerised directions-giver will become part of the actual driving test.

Is this not surely a recipe for disaster? The daily calamities of the feckless lorry driver whose HGV gets stuck under a bridge because they followed that annoying female voice to their doom, are all too common.

And, how many times do we see road signs proclaiming: Do NOT follow sat nav directions.

Well, if that is the case, what is the blooming point of them at all?

Admittedly, for your actual door-to-door travel, without the hassle of having to worry whether you have missed a turn or not, on one-off journeys, they have some worth. But complete reliance?

And as the development of the devices get more all-singing, all dancing, we could be faced with a future where we don't even view the road ahead at all, well apart from the possible introduction of driverless cars themselves.

I foresee a superherk getting hold of the software/hardware (don't ask a duncie like me to differentiate) which controls driverless cars of the future, and a convoy of thousands screaming down the M5 towards the cliffs of Lands End and the watery grave of the Atlantic.

How many times as well, does that soulless voice with BBCesque pronunciation get it completely wrong, either with the road name itself, or more frequently, with the number of junctions at a traffic island? Sometimes, slip roads are counted and that only adds to the confusion.

Once I ended up, in search of a hotel in Liverpool, going round a roundabout, obviously looking completely like a tourist with impatient scallies all around me, and took the wrong turn-off, only to end up on a lovely sight-seeing tour of the Wallasey Tunnel.

To add insult to injury, we then had to pay a toll to come all the way back again.

However, occasionally, only very occasionally mind, the sat nav mistress does actually provide revolutionary miles-chopping routes across lovely country lanes.

Then of course, being the perfect driver who scoffs at reliance on anything but my own excellent internal atlas, it takes twice as long to get back home. And I couldn't even blame the tractors.

GRAEME ANDREW

# Walk away advice is PC gone mad

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



SOME days before the NHS computer crash and BA's micro-chip mix-up, my old PC's screen suddenly filled with dire warnings, klaxon sounds and an American voice telling me to ring this number immediately. I hadn't a clue what was going on, so I did what I always do in times of PC crisis. I switched it off and went for a long walk.

WHEN I started the computer up again, all the warnings had vanished. I assume it was some low-grade attempt either to extract information, demand a ransom fee or both. Just to be safe, I downloaded all my files on to a memory stick. It took ages but gives me a great sense of security.

I COMMENTED on Lucy Worsley pronouncing "schedule" as "skedule" in her latest historical show, about Jane Austen. It gets worse. One TV reviewer reported that Worsley twice used the word "ginormous." Miss Austen would probably shudder and reach for the smelling salts.

IF you are of a certain age, you will probably remember John Noakes, who died this week, as the daft-as-a-brush Blue Peter presenter, paddling in the excrement of that innocent baby elephant, or making yet another pointless Christmas present from a wire coathanger and a Fairy Liquid bottle. Think again. Have a look at his 1970s ascent of Nelson's Column on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p4Y-FCJETnwI>) in the days before health and safety. With not even a hard helmet or a safety rope, Noakes climbs the column on a series of ladders, including one horrific, gravity-defying overhang. One slip and he would have been dead. Yet he shows not a trace of fear, not a hint of regret. I'm not sure whether he was brave or foolish but what a great performer he was.

DIANE Abbott says she may once have hoped for a British defeat by the IRA, but has changed her mind, just as she has changed her hairstyle. So that's all right, then. Let's hope she doesn't suddenly go for a cut and blow-dry and emerge

against the term "lone wolf" to describe a terrorist, a word which denigrates the noble wolf. While we're at it, he asks for the derogatory term "cowboy" to be banned. He knows his stuff, having worked with cowboys in the Rockies. They were, he says, "particularly hard working, skilled and professional people."

THE official election leaflet has just arrived from our local Labour candidate. It contains not a single mention of Jeremy Corbyn.

LOTS of visitors to the Chelsea Flower Show went home clutching brochures for "natural swimming ponds." This is the cool, green alternative to a chlorine-drenched swimming pool in your back garden. For between £60,000 and £90,000 the contractors will dig a hole, waterproof it and give you a place where you can swim among the newts, frogs and dragonflies, and sneer at your less nature-minded neighbours. I have a pal who made himself a swimming pond long before they became fashionable. It involved a weekend with a JCB and cost a lot less than sixty grand. His wife swims in it almost every day of the year and he has recently dragged an old dinghy onto it where she can sit at sunset and, while wobbling gently, put the world to rights with a G&T and a frog chow. Bliss.

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from the salon cheerleading some other bunch of murdering psychopaths.

ABBOTT tries to distance herself from her pro-IRA days by repeating that it was 34 years ago. That makes it worse. For she was praying for the Brits to lose the struggle in Ulster at a time when the IRA were committing atrocities on the British mainland such as the Hyde Park bombings (11 soldiers and seven horses killed) and the Harrods bombing

(three police and three civilians killed, 90 injured). Her views back then were shared by only a tiny, rabid number of extremists. The passing of time is utterly irrelevant and her favourite phrase "moving on" does not wash.

A READER shares my view on the unfair funding of Alzheimer's treatment, with some patients subsidised by the state and others driven into penury by care-home fees. He suggests we learn a lesson from old lags. If you seem to be developing dementia, commit a serious crime. That way, you get 24/7 care in a warm, dry, comfortable prison with three meals a day, constant medical attention and no worries about security. And it doesn't cost you a penny.

AUF wiedersehen, pets. We have just bade a fond farewell to our German friends, over here for a few days for the first time in five years. Nothing seemed to have changed, apart from the arrival of their son, now 22 months. Turns out entertaining a German Terrible Two is much the same as an English Terrible Two. Fill a small watering can mit Wasser and watch them find endless amusement in watering the plants, the lawn, the grown-ups, the cat and anything else. Mehr is a most useful German word. It means more, as in "mehr Wasser," "mehr Trampolin" and "mehr Katze." If anything makes a two-year-old shriek with laughter, you know he'll want mehr.

To add insult to injury, we then had to pay a toll to come all the way back again.

However, occasionally, only very occasionally mind, the sat nav mistress does actually provide revolutionary miles-chopping routes across lovely country lanes.

Then of course, being the perfect driver who scoffs at reliance on anything but my own excellent internal atlas, it takes twice as long to get back home. And I couldn't even blame the tractors.

GRAEME ANDREW

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# Honour Darby's pioneer ancestor too

GOOD to see local Woodsetton lad Abraham Darby I could be commemorated with a 'statue' near his place of birth (presumably Wren's Nest).

Darby deserves recognition as one of the industrial pioneers of the early 18th century, for successfully smelting iron with coal, and for founding the Coalbrookdale company, headed by a dynasty of ironmasters who bore the same name (albeit in Shropshire).

I think it would be good also, however, if the opportunity could be taken to include a reference to Darby's family connections to that earlier local industry.

## France in solidarity with the UK

I HAVE just arrived back from four days in France.

Manchester was everywhere, on TV, radio, in newspapers and in cafe conversations.

I visited Ascension Day Holiday fêtes in villages around Maubeuge. Local town halls were flying British and French flags together over the entrances.

The massive memorial arch to the Missing of The Somme, at Thiepval, was flying the French and British flags at half mast, side by side.

It was heart-warming to find that the solidarity between the ordinary people of France and Britain, which the hard-line separatists appear to consider totally unimportant and expendable, remains strong and that they still hope that we may be allowed to have second thoughts.

One young Frenchman in a bar said to me 'Don't give up hope.'

**ROBERT PERRY**  
Stourbridge

trial pioneer, Dud Dudley (c1599-1684) who was Darby's great uncle on his paternal grandmother's side of the family, and who had begun smelting iron with coal right here in Dudley and the surrounding vicinity over 80 years beforehand in 1620.

Research over the last few years indicates that Darby may have worked out his iron smelting methods, at least in part, from 'inside knowledge' that was most likely passed down through the family.

This came in the form of surface coal which had been naturally coked by post

carboniferous activity. This naturally coked coal would have been suitable for smelting iron without the need for significant modification of the equipment or processes prevalent at the time.

This has now been backed up by geological evidence around Barrow Hill, Pensnett, and it is hoped can be further backed up by archaeological evidence from the site of Dudley's purpose-built furnace off the Himley Road at Aske Bridge, at some point.

**CARL HIGGS**  
Stourbridge

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

### EMAIL

dudley.chrons@  
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

**Code of Practice:** Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at [www.ipso.co.uk](http://www.ipso.co.uk). If you are unhappy with the accuracy of a story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

## Concern over store using 'Parking Eye'

ASDA'S planned parking restrictions using number plate recognition cameras at their new store in Sedgley will be a troublesome and unwanted nuisance to large numbers of people.

The £70 parking charge for overstaying the two hour limit means elderly and vulnerable people will fall foul of the limit and be pursued by 'Parking Eye' - Asda's enforcement company. The number plate recognition system is fundamentally unjust - it provides no proof of arrival and departure times to the parker and Parking Eyes acts as witness, judge and debt collector. The argument is that 'everyone has similar restrictions' ignores the high number of community organisations used by Sedgley's vulnerable people that border the Sedgley car park.

**MARTIN JONES**  
Sedgley

## Passes not checked at train station

HUNDREDS of people must, like my wife and I, travel on trains within the West Midlands, as our passes allow us to.

When we travel by bus, our passes are read by a meter situated by the bus driver. When we travel by the Metro tram, again our details are recorded on a meter held by the guard.

Yet when we travel by train, the guards just look at the passes and do not record the details.

Sometimes our passes are read by a machine as we enter a station, but other times we are able to just walk through - as we did at Birmingham Moor Street station.

Is it any wonder that the train companies do not make so much profit as they could? Very often there is no guard on the trains anyway. If there is one, couldn't they be equipped with machines like the Metro guards are?

My mind is baffled.  
**PETER COLE**  
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## £5m spent buying back council homes

A CASH-STRAPPED council in the Black Country has spent more than £5 million buying back homes which were originally sold at a discount under right to buy laws, it can be revealed.

Sandwell Council brought back 59 properties at a cost of £5,035 million.

Many of the homes were sold back to the authority for much more than they were bought for as the council came under pressure increase its housing stock.

Bosses insisted they only bought back properties if the deal provided value for money.

The right to buy policy was introduced by the Conservative Government in the 1980s, allowing council house tenants to buy their homes at a discount.

But a surge in house prices over recent years meant the value of the properties had rocketed by the time the authority came to buy them back.

Documents showed one house the council sold in Bodenham Road, Smethwick, for £12,370 in 1989 was bought back for £106,200 in 2014 under a mortgage rescue scheme – more than eight times the original price.



Civic leaders join Black Country Society chairman James Morgan and president Keith Hodgkins, centre

## Society raises a toast to its 50 bostin' years

THE Black Country Society took a year to hit 100 members – now 50 years later that has grown to a bostin' 1,600. And the group marked the milestone with a celebration at Himley Hall.

Black Country History Society chairman James Morgan was joined by president Keith Hodgkins, deputy mayor of Sandwell Susan Eaves, Mayor of Dudley Dave Tyler, Mayor of Wolverhampton Phil Page and Walsall Mayor Marco Longhi.

It followed a blue plaque being unveiled in March at the Noah's Ark pub in Wood Street, the location 50 years ago on March 1 of the first meeting of the society.

The Black Country Society was founded in 1967 by the late Dr John Fletcher and John Brimble, who felt the Black Country did not receive its fair share of recognition for its major

contribution to the industrial development of Britain and the world.

The group grew out of the Dudley Canal Tunnel Preservation Society, which successfully campaigned to save Dudley Canal Tunnel. The society's stated aim was 'to foster interest in the past, present and future of the Black Country'.

In 1968 calls were made for the establishment of a industrial museum, and since the creation of the Black Country Living Museum, the society has continued to support it. The society also publishes a quarterly magazine called The Blackcountryman.

Chairman James Morgan said: "It was appropriate the celebration should take place at Himley Hall, the home of the Earl of Dudley who was the most influential figure in the area when the Black Country was undergoing its rapid growth."

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# Police told of 15 child sex crimes every day

HUNDREDS of online child sex offences have been committed in the West Midlands over the last two years.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) has released figures showing that the internet was used to commit 241 child sexual offences across the region and it is calling on the next Government to make online safety a top priority.

Last year across England and Wales, 5,653 child sex crimes that were committed against children as young as three had an online element.

A total of 39 police forces reported cyber-related sex crimes against under-18s that included rape, grooming, and sexual assault.

This number has risen by 44 per cent from 2015/16 when 39 forces across England and Wales who responded to the same Freedom of Information request by the NSPCC, recorded 3,903 cyber-related sexual offences.

#### Flag

This is the second year police have been required to record – 'cyber flag' – any crime that involved the internet.

The latest figures show police are recording an average of 15 internet-related sex crimes against children a day, highlighting a worrying trend in how predators are using the internet to target children.

For offences where the age of the victim was recorded, 13 was the most common age of the victim

By Doug Wootton

(257 cases) but there were nearly 100 offences nationwide committed against children aged ten and under, with the youngest victim aged just three.

Peter Wanless, of the NSPCC, said: "These figures confirm our fears that offenders are exploiting the internet to target children for their own dark deeds.

"Children also tell our Childline service that they are being targeted online by some adults who pose as children and try to meet them, or persuade them to perform sexual acts on webcams, before blackmailing them. This terrifies them and can leave some feeling worthless, depressed, and suicidal."

He added: "We cannot idly sit by knowing that more and more innocent young people are being harmed online. Today's worrying data leaves the next Government with no choice but to urgently address this issue. We are calling on them to force internet companies and social media sites to adhere to rules that keep their young users safe."

# Jacket clue after a pair of robberies

TWO shops were targeted by robbers within two weeks of each other in raids being linked by police.

Officers were initially called to the One Stop store on Bourne Street, Dudley. Two offenders entered the shop wearing masks and stole cigarettes and money on March 8 at 7.30pm. Almost two weeks later, on March 20, officers were called to the One Stop store in Horseley Street in Tipton at 8.50pm. Two masked men had threatened a staff member and stole a small quantity of cash and a large box of cigarettes.

One of the suspects was seen on CCTV wearing the same distinctive Jellesse jacket at both locations.

A West Midlands Police spokesman said: "Officers have been following numerous lines of inquiry, including forensicics."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Constable Benjamin Parsons on 101 ext. 811 3101, or via email at b.parsons@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk



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# It's animal magic as zoo bags top awards

IT is one of the Black Country's favourite attractions – visited by tens of thousands of people every year.

Dudley Zoo has now been honoured at a ceremony celebrating the best of British and Irish zoos and aquariums.

The attraction netted a trio of gongs at the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIZA) awards, which celebrate outstanding achievements in the zoological world.

The Castle Hill attraction's £20,000 'baboons on the bank' exhibit, which provides a natural hillside home for the zoo's breeding group of gelada baboons, was awarded a silver award at the ceremony.

Zoo photographer Jason Skarratt was awarded two runner-up prizes in the photography competition.

Zoo director Derek Grove said: "We are delighted to have been awarded three accolades by British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums, especially in our 80th anniversary year.

## Proud

"This proves Dudley Zoological Gardens is one of the country's leading zoos and we're proud our contributions towards conservation and animal welfare have been recognised by experts from within the zoo community."

The one-acre enclosure – which was wholly funded by the zoo and opened by TV presenter and conservationist Bill Oddie in 2014 – provides a replica of the gelada's wild habitat.

Zoo bosses said its vertical rocky landscape and grassland bank ideally suit the primates. Since introducing the species to the new enclosure, the venue has also welcomed three babies – Billie, Ambo and Gimbi – who enjoy barrelling down the hill together.



Bornean orangutan Sprout's birthday encounter with a bubble



Baby snow leopard Milo was cared for by staff after her mother died

Photographer Jason was honoured for two photos – one of orangutan Sprout being showered with bubbles on her birthday, and another of zoo staff caring for newborn snow leopard Milo after his mother's sudden death. The photo of the Bornean orangutan was captured on her fifth birthday. Sprout had never seen bubbles before and couldn't quite believe her eyes as the colourful soapy suds floated towards her.

Zoo chiefs said that the previously unpublished photograph of staff looking after Milo shows how its dedicated keepers go above and beyond for the sake of the animals.

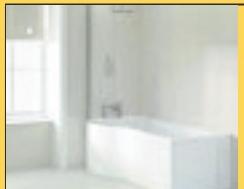


## BATHROOM & PLUMBING STORES

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A UNIQUE partnership between a bank and the photography department at Dudley College has produced a set of stunning images of Black Country landmarks.

The collaboration between Handelsbanken Stourbridge also means that two student photographers who undertook the commission will be able to afford to join a college trip to Iceland.

Having heard about the proposed trip, BTEC Diploma Photography students James Holyhead and Callum Calton, both 18, didn't think they would be able to raise the funds to go.

But Handelsbanken branch manager Richard Mander commissioned the students to create a set of photographs that reflected life in the Black Country, to hang in branches in Stourbridge, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Mr Mander said: "When the students approached me I immediately understood this was a great opportunity for both parties. Supporting the local community is important to the bank as we pride ourselves on our local friendly approach.

### Unique

"We had also been looking at ways of making a link to our neighbouring area at our sites, so the idea of commissioning a unique set of local landscapes to hang on our walls seemed a great fit."

I was also impressed with the professionalism of the students' approach as the calibre of the work they showed me filled me with confidence. As a Scandinavian Bank, part of the wider Nordic zone, we are also keen to promote a better understanding of that region, so the fact the students wanted to use their fee from the work to visit Iceland was an extra bonus."



Photo by Callum Calton of Dudley Priory ruins near the town centre



The gates at Mary Stevens Park, also pictured by Callum Calton

Through his business contacts Mr Mander has helped the students find other supporters as businesses including Talbots Solicitors, Nicklin LLP, Stelstocks Limited and Kendrick Homes have also committed to purchasing images from their extensive portfolio.

Phil Brooks, photography lecturer at the college, said: "Developing our students' ability to pitch their work and find backers is a critical skill for anyone wanting to be a commercial photographer, so it's always really pleasing when a partnership of this kind comes together in this way."

The public can see the photographs in the branches and the portfolio will be available online at dudleycol.ac.uk and www.handelsbanken/stourbridge

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## £19.8m loss at building society

THE loss of a court case has punched a hole in the annual figures of West Bromwich Building Society, driving it to a £19.8 million loss.

It comes despite strong home loan figures from the Black Country's biggest building society, which saw gross residential mortgage lending rise to £712m for 12 months to the end of March. Up from £673m a year ago, it's the biggest lending figure for the society since the financial crash of 2008.

But the West Brom had to fork out £27.5m after the Court of Appeal said it should not have doubled the interest it charged for some 6,700 buy-to-let landlords.

Beyond the court case, the West Brom said its underlying pre-tax profit was up 60 per cent on last year, to £7.7m.

Chief executive Jonathan Westhoff said: "Whilst the reported loss for the year is disappointing, we can draw considerable confidence from our strong underlying performance."

# Prison for speeding driver who left friends seriously injured

**A DRIVER, who ruined the lives of three friends after ignoring their pleas to slow down, has been sent to jail for five years.**

Timothy Pascall, of Netherton, was doing 83mph in a 30 limit zone on the wrong side of the road in a stolen car moments before disaster struck, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The 21-year-old's girlfriend, front seat passenger Lauren Lunn, feared for her life as the black Corsa hurtled towards a hump back bridge in Hale-sown Road, Netherton at 5am on March 19.

She pulled at the steering wheel in a bid to get the vehicle back on track but it was snatched back by David Bennett, prosecuting.

The Corsa – on false plates after being stolen from Leamington a week earlier – careered across the road so fast it snapped a telegraph pole. Ryan Plimmer, a friend of the driver, was left close to death while Miss Lunn and fellow passenger Courtney Miller were seriously hurt in the crash.

Pascall, of Ashfield Crescent, pleaded guilty to three charges of causing serious injury by dangerous driving, aggravated vehicle taking and attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Mr Plimmer, 21, suffered a detached aorta, a bleed on the brain, torn liver, burst bladder and broken bones. He has undergone six operations and faces up to two more years treatment. The other two passengers, both 18, also suffered life changing injuries.

Pascall, of Ashfield Crescent, pleaded guilty to three charges of causing serious injury by dangerous driving, aggravated vehicle taking and attempting to pervert the course of justice.



Locked up – Timothy Pascall

## Fiona brings antique show to museum



BBC TV Antiques Roadshow presenter Fiona Bruce

IT'S time to dust off the treasures as BBC One's Antiques Roadshow heads to a Dudley museum later this month.

Leading antiques and fine arts specialists will be on hand at the Black Country Living Museum to offer free advice and valuations to visitors. Museum goers are invited to bring along their family heirlooms, household treasures and car-boot bargains for inspection by the experts on June 21 at the Tipton Road attraction.

Antiques Roadshow presenter Fiona Bruce said: "The best part of working on Antiques Roadshow is that we never know who or what is going to turn up on the day. The visitors, the objects they bring, their stories and the location all combine to make a fabulous experience that we aim to capture for the viewers. If you are a fan of Antiques Roadshow, curious to see behind the scenes, or just fancy a day out, I would urge you to come along."

It's open from 9.30am to 4.30pm. Entry to the show is free. Visitors with an unusual item, collection or story can let the team know in advance via the Share Your Story link on [www.bbc.co.uk/antiquesroadshow](http://www.bbc.co.uk/antiquesroadshow)

## Police respond to 17 drone call-outs

WEST Midlands Police were called to 17 drone-related incidents in the first three months of this year.

The force, however, made no arrests in connection with the call-outs. Incidents ranged from anti-social behaviour to road disruption and public safety.

In most cases, police took no further action. In others, officers were unable to trace the owner or operator of the drone.

Under rules from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), people cannot use drones in areas the Air Navigation Order defines as congested.

The order states congested is 'any area of a city, town or settlement which is substantially used for residential, industrial, commercial or recreational purposes'.

Permit is needed from the CAA to fly a drone in such areas. There has been concern after drones have also been used to make drops over prison walls.

## Soul Survivors celebrate Robin

THE Soul Survivors with Mel Day will play at a special 25th anniversary show celebrating the Robin venue in Brierley Hill.

The soul band played at the venue when it first opened in 1992 and will play at the Robin 2 in Bilston next month. The original Robin was demolished to make way for new car parks at the Merry Hill shopping centre.

Ex-staff members of the Robin in Brierley Hill, who worked there between 1992 and 2003, are welcome to attend for free.

Soul Survivors will play at the Mount Pleasant venue on July 14. Tickets are pegged at the 1992 price of £5 and can be bought on 01902 401211 or online at [therobin.co.uk](http://therobin.co.uk).

Soul Survivors have long been favourites on the local music scene with covers of classic soul hits from the 60s and 70s.

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## Grammar skills are on the slide

NEARLY 38 per cent of adults from the West Midlands would fail a grammar test, it has been claimed.

There and their, your and you're, who and whom, plus the correct use of the apostrophe, are the kind of grammar rules that are routinely broken.

According to a survey of 2,000 local people, translation and interpretation service LanguageLine says almost 38 per cent of those aged between 18 and 65 in the West Midlands region failed the overall grammar test overall. But that's better than the national failure rate of almost 40 per cent of Brits. It also found 75 per cent of West Midlands residents use 'text' language in a formal setting.

Visit [www.languageline.com/uk/grammar-quiz](http://www.languageline.com/uk/grammar-quiz) to test your grammar.

# Police targeting drink and drug drivers in summer blitz

**MOTORISTS** getting behind the wheel while under the influence of drink or drugs are being targeted in a summer crackdown by police.

Officers will be having a blitz on those drivers who their own and others' lives at risk, in the month-long operation.

Last Christmas a similar campaign saw more than 250 people fail roadside tests or refuse to give a sample. A further 40 were positive for drugs, which was a third of those tested.

The highest breath test recording was 167 mi-

crograms in 100 millilitres of breath – more than four times the legal alcohol limit.

Roadside stop checks and unmarked patrols will be made by officers from the West Midlands Police and Central Motorway Police Group (CMPG).

Officers will also act on intelligence to catch irresponsible drivers.

Sergeant Mark Bull, from West Midlands road policing, said: "There are big risks involved with drink or drug driving, not only are you risking killing or injuring yourself or others you also risk losing your licence and potentially your live-

lihood. Such behaviour is totally unacceptable and drivers found to be driving in excess of the limit will be put before the court."

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "People driving under the influence of drink or drugs are a menace on our roads, causing harm and misery.

"I am hugely supportive of West Midlands Police's efforts to reduce the number of fatalities and serious injuries caused by drink-driving. Drinking alcohol then getting behind the wheel is the most dangerous thing a driver can do. It's a reckless and selfish act."

## Record breaker fun run hopes

AN ANNUAL charity run is set to receive a record number of runners when it takes place on Sunday morning.

The Cobra Classic 10k & 3.5k fun run has been held at Old Halesonians Rugby Club for more than 25 years, with proceeds donated to the Mary Stevens Hospice.

For the first time, the Cobra Running Club will be offering chip timing and a 5k timing mat, allowing runners to monitor their performance.

To sign up online go to [cobrarc.co.uk](http://cobrarc.co.uk) or register on the day from 8.30am. Advance entries cost £12.75 for affiliated club runners and £14.75 for non-club runners. Entries on the day will be charged £15, and £3 for the fun run.

## Restaurant rises from ashes



Main construction has finished on the new-look Hickory's restaurant in Wall Heath

THE new Hickory's restaurant in Wall Heath is almost ready for its grand reopening next month.

It has been built from scratch on its site at the former landmark Kingfisher club, after the original restaurant was destroyed by a fire in August, sparked by a faulty fridge.

Ahead of the opening, a recruitment day was held last week for new staff, with more than 100 people attending.

Mark Rogers, operations manager for Hickory's, said building work was on track with final touches to the interior of the popular barbecue style restaurant.

He said: "It's going really well. We have a tight schedule but it seems to be on track."

The recruitment day was for a range of different roles.

Mr Rogers said: "We need bar, kitchen and waiting staff, although most manager positions are filled."

## Witness appeal after man injured in attack

WEST Mercia Police are appealing for witnesses after a man was assaulted by four men at a pub late on a Friday night.

The man had to be hospitalised after suffering facial injuries during the incident.

Police are now calling for any witnesses to come forward following the incident at The Queens Head pub on Sugarbrook Lane in Bromsgrove. It happened between the hours of 11pm on May 4 and 12.30am on May 5.

Police said it was reported that a man was assaulted following an altercation with one of the group.

The victim was taken to the Alexandra Hospital, where he was treated for facial fractures.

Investigating police officers urged any potential witnesses who may have information on the assault to come forward. They are asked to call police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## Mode bring Brum Spirit

ELECTRONIC icons Deepache Mode will perform in Birmingham in November and tickets go on sale tomorrow morning (Friday).

The band, formed in Basildon in 1980, consists of founders Dave Gahan, Martin Gore and Andy Fletcher. Their hits include Personal Jesus, Just Can't Get Enough, People Are People, and Enjoy The Silence.

The band will be at Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena as part of their Global Spirit tour on November 19. See [www.livenation.co.uk](http://www.livenation.co.uk)

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The company based in Junction Road, Audnam, started out 28 years ago to serve the Stourbridge area but as it has grown it has moved on to serve neighbouring areas including Halesowen, Kidderminster, Bromsgrove and Worcester.

The business moved to its present base 20 years ago. Carera offer a full range of windows and doors and also install a full range of conservatories, orangeries and living spaces.

### Happy

The company prides itself on having a depth of knowledge in all aspects of the products it offers and industry regulations. The company is fully conversant with all current regulations within the industry. A key aim is to provide a level of customer service that is second to none.

More than 70 per cent of all Carera Windows' home sales come via personal recommendation from happy clients, which number many thousands. It takes pride in completing every project to the highest standard.

From the start, Carera is committed to offering only top-quality products, expert installations and unbeatable personal service to both private and commercial customers. Its experienced team is committed to working closely with local



Attractive doors and windows complement the room setting

authorities, education authorities, landlords, architects and contractors on its commercial work. Carera Windows is keen to get involved in any kind of commercial project from industrial units to office conversions, new build to refurbishments and renovations.

The company's showroom at its base is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm and Saturday, 10am to 4pm. It offers a wide range of products in various sizes and colours, manufactured

using PVCu, aluminium, GRP and hardwood. Carera also installs entrance doors, sliding patio doors, french double doors and porches

Carera Windows was started by owner and managing director Mark Crompton in 1989, originally from home as a small enterprise supplying the local area. Its housing association glazing contracts and commercial premises work now also takes the business across the country.

Carera prides itself on offering honest and professional expert advice, installing 100 per cent high quality products, sensible prices and outstanding customer service.

It has become a market leader in its area and aims to provide a friendly service without hard sell.

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Claire Stockley (Sales) and Dan Butcher (Business)

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# Mansion is the wedding venue in romantic novel

A COUNTRY house near Dudley will feature in a romantic novel written by a Black Country author.

Owners of Blakelands' Country House were thrilled to hear that they will be featured in West Bromwich author Keren Hughes's novel, *My Best Friend's Fiancé*, her fifth novel.

The author has visited Blakelands at Halfpenny Green, near Bobbington, on several occasions and when trying to imagine where the couple in the book would get married, she instantly thought of the venue.

Keren said: "I first visited Blakelands around 10 years ago and fell in love with it straight away. The main House dates back to 1500 and has a rich history, making it an impressive and romantic setting."

"I stayed in the Ebony and Ivory room and when I was thinking of a

place where my characters could go for their first romantic getaway, I straight away thought of Blakelands.

"Without giving too much away, there is a wedding scene later in the book, and as Blakelands is such a stunning wedding venue, I couldn't think of anywhere better for them to tie the knot."

Keren said: "My Best Friend's Fiancé is the story of a woman named Kara, who is in love with Reid. The only problem is, Reid is engaged to her best friend Zoey. Kara knows it's wrong to covet another woman's man but she can't help but fantasise about what life would be like if they were together."

The book is available to pre-order via Amazon now. Keren also has a Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/authorkerenhu](http://www.facebook.com/authorkerenhu)



Romantic venue in book – Blakelands Country House at Halfpenny Green, near Bobbington

# Woman was speared by glass shard in the heart

A DOMESTIC dispute nearly ended tragedy when a woman was speared by a shard of glass, a judge was told.

The sliver tore through her chest into the muscle of her heart after she was pushed by her boyfriend into a large cabinet that smashed, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

She was rushed to hospital for emergency surgery and has since made a good recovery.

The court heard that Micah Taylor and the victim had a volatile relationship, which had already resulted in each of them appearing in court for other offences.

The argument that resulted in her injury erupted at her home in Halesowen where the 28-year-old defendant was also living on August 30. At least one child was also at the address.

## Wound

The victim was sent crashing into the corner cabinet by Taylor, who then went to her assistance and removed a large piece of glass from the wound as soon as he realised the seriousness of the situation.

He stayed with his partner until police and paramedics arrived, the court was told.

Mr Neil Ahuja, prosecuting, declared: "He had not intended to cause serious harm but it happened in her home in the presence of a very young child."

Taylor had previously landed himself in court after assaulting the woman. He had also set fire to her clothes with a blow torch

# Young girl is left with a broken leg

A 10-YEAR-OLD girl suffered a broken leg after being hit by a car in Brierley Hill last week.

The girl was taken to hospital by ambulance after being struck in an accident on The Wickets at around 4.35pm on Tuesday, May 30.

An ambulance and senior paramedics were called to the scene to treat the injured schoolgirl in the street, after passers-by gathered to see if they could help.

West Midlands Ambulance spokesman, Murray McGregor, said: "The girl had suffered a badly broken right leg in the collision."

"After treatment at the scene, she was taken to Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley for further treatment."

Police are eager to learn more about the incident and any witnesses to the crash are asked to get in touch with police on 101.

# Teenager is in court after store evacuated

A 15-YEAR-OLD boy charged with making an explosive after armed police evacuated a Sainsbury's supermarket has appeared before magistrates.

Hundreds of people were evacuated from the store in Blackheath on Saturday as the drama unfolded.

Armed officers swarmed on the supermarket as customers were told to leave their shopping and get out at around 12.10pm.

An alarm rang out while shoppers said they heard a loud bang coming from the toilets as panicked customers tried to get out as fast as they could. No members of the public were hurt during the incident.

The boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, spoke only to confirm his name at Wolverhampton Magistrates Court last week.

He was charged earlier this week with possession of a bladed article and two further charges of making an explosive substance and maliciously causing an explosive substance to endanger life.

He was remanded in custody to appear before the court again on June 21.

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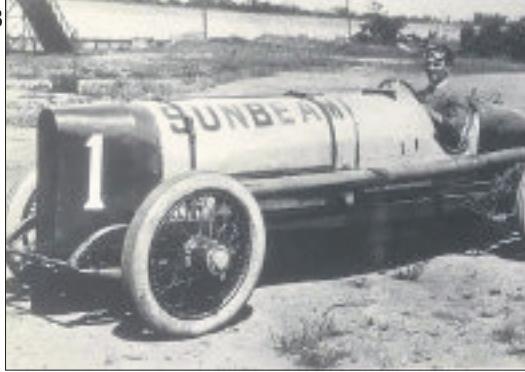
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A Sunbeam-built Dyak-powered Avro at Dunstall Park

# When Sunbeam shone bright as a big name in transport history



This photo of an engine is of the Arab which is now at the RAF Cosford museum

**ONE** of the great names in British transport history, and one of the biggest companies in Wolverhampton, The Sunbeam has not existed except as badges on other companies' vehicles since the 1930s, having only made their first powered vehicle in 1899.

Just as famous as aero-engine manufacturers during the First World War, when they were a clear rival to Rolls-Royce, their engines powered aircraft for a little over 10 years.

The first, a side-valve 110hp V8, was first run in 1912, and at the start of the war they were the only British maker of high-powered aero-engines.

The factory in Upper Villiers Street was turned over to building aero-en-

## MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

gines and aircraft and their much sought-after staff cars were made by Rover in Coventry.

Sunbeam engines powered seaplanes and airships in particular, including the only aircraft to fly at the Battle of Jutland, and the first to sink a warship with a torpedo.

### Surpass

The best Sunbeam engines were the V12 Cossack and Maori, but at the end of the war their reputation was largely ruined by the V8 Arab.

Ordered in huge numbers from four different companies, virtually off the drawing board, it was found to have severe vibration problems, and only 1,300 of the 6,000 ordered were ever built. After the war Sunbeam had some successes, powering the first

aircraft to fly the Atlantic both ways, the R.34 Airship, and the first aircraft ever owned by QANTAS in Australia; a Sunbeam Dyak-powered Avro 504, but the fall in their reputation caused by the Arab, and the superb reliability of the Rolls-Royce competition lead to the demise of the aero-engine division.

Strangely, the final successes of Sunbeam aero-engines were on the ground, where they powered Land Speed Record-breaking cars at speeds never achieved by Sunbeam-powered aircraft.

A modified V12 Manitou powered the 350hp Sunbeam which became the first to surpass 150mph, and two V12 Matabeles drove the 1000hp Sunbeam, The Slug, to the first Land Speed Record over 200 mph.

Locally a Sunbeam Manitou can be found in the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley, and the last surviving Arab in the world, is in the RAF Museum Cosford.



A replica of QANTAS' first aircraft, the Sunbeam-Dyak powered Avro 504

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# Research earns prize for Sarah

A FORMER Bishop Milner pupil has won an award from the Royal Geographical Society.

Dr Sarah Mills, senior lecturer in human geography at Loughborough University, is this year's recipient of the Royal Geographical Society (with Institute of British Geographers) Gill Memorial Award. She studied at Milking Bank Primary School and Bishop Milner Secondary School in Dudley.

Dr Mills was honoured with the award in recognition of her 'outstanding early career research in cultural geography'.

Her research at Loughborough explores the geographies of youth citizenship, informal education and volunteering. She has had her work published widely, co-edited two books, and held two Economic and Social Research Council Fellowships.

Dr Mills said: "I am so grateful to the Royal Geographical Society for this award. I owe a huge thanks to colleagues, mentors, but most of all to my family and friends."

## Maisie's 105th birthday



105-year-old Maisie Patstone with her congratulations from the Queen

IT'S been quite an eventful 105 years for Maisie Patstone. She may have been born just weeks after the Titanic sank but it's all been happy sailing – celebrating her 105th birthday surrounded by family members, cake, flowers and an array of cards.

Maisie celebrated her birthday at Beechcroft Residential Home in Oldbury. "We've all had a wonderful day," smiled son Neville Patstone, aged 79.

Maisie was joined by her two sons, Neville and Dennis, aged 77, her two daughter-in-laws, Sue and Jean and her niece Sheila Reith. She also has four grandchildren, Neil, Ian, Richard and Rachel, and six great-grandchildren.

Born in Katherine Road, Smethwick, on May 30, 1912, she was the youngest of three sisters and went to the Abbey Road School before working for tobacco firm at Singleton

and Coles in Birmingham. Maisie married Arthur Patstone in April 1934 at Harborne Parish Church. Five years later, he went off to war and served in Egypt and Italy. During their married life, they spent most weekends in a caravan with the family and had a key role in the Midland Caravan Club.

Neville said: "Maisie used to love knitting, sewing and gardening when she lived on her own."

Dennis reminisced the time when Arthur and Maisie once had ducks in their back garden. He said: "Our back garden was a complete mud pit and we had loads of ducks because everything was being rationed at the time. I was really young at the time but I can still remember them."

Dennis added: "Since being at Beechcroft they have taken marvellous care of her."

## Furniture repair firm moves onto estate

AN UPHOLSTERER and furniture repair specialist with more than 20 years' experience has opened his own business in the Black Country.

Gary Burns, who has worked for nationally-known companies before setting up Classic Furniture Care 12 months ago, has agreed terms with leading investment and property management company LCP for his first standalone premises at The Pensnett Estate, Kingswinford.

### Garage

He has taken Building 53A, Bay 6, a 426 sq ft unit at LCP's flagship industrial estate after moving his fledgling business, which undertakes upholstery, upholstery repairs and leather repairs, out of his mother's garage.

Paula James, LCP industrial lettings manager, said: "Pensnett Estate offers a huge range of premises."

### Council offer help adapting

DUDLEY Council is offering help to borough residents who need to adapt their homes.

The local authority is offering help for those having difficulties bathing, getting upstairs or getting into the home.

Dudley Home Improvement Service, which is part of Dudley Council, offers the adaptation's package.

Grants are available to pay for adaptations, along with practical support. Contact the service on 0300 555 0055.

# 50,000 taking part in clinical health research across region

A RESEARCH network has revealed that more than 50,000 people took part in clinical trials in the West Midlands in one year.

The Clinical Research Network West Midlands has published figures for 2016/17 as NHS organisations celebrated International Clinical Trials Day.

The event is to raise awareness of how patients could contribute to research.

It celebrates the anniversary of the first clinical trial by James Lind in 1747 into the causes of scurvy on board the HMS Salisbury.

A range of activities took place around the region to mark the day, including a school visit by a research bus, a research cafe and a num-

ber of research showcases. And 100 per cent of trusts in the West Midlands are research active, together with 410 GP practices, and the network is the highest recruiting of the 15 in England for commercial studies.

### Develop

Participating in health research helps develop new treatments, improve the NHS and save lives, and studies show research-active trusts have better outcomes for patients.

Network clinical director professor Jeremy Kirk said: "The more patients who can be offered the opportunity to take part in vital clinical research, the better the care we can offer and the quicker the NHS can introduce new and better treatments for the benefit of all patients.

"We would like to thank all those who have contributed to these improvements through their participation in research."

Patients have been sharing their stories to highlight the impact that research has had on their lives, and the lives of others.

Sheena, a patient from the Black Country, said: "After research had been explained to me in more detail I knew I was definitely going to take part. I knew that people would benefit from the research and I would be helping somebody else."

This year sees the launch of a new national campaign: I Am Research, which highlights the many different ways in which people can get involved in and contribute to research.

To find out more, visit the [www.ukctg.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.ukctg.nihr.ac.uk) website.

## Facilities award for care home

A CARE home has won an award for 'best for clinical facilities' in a national scheme.

Broadway Halls Care Home in Dudley is celebrating winning the prize.

The home is run by brighterkind and is one of more than 50 of its homes providing specialist nursing care, which share the recognition for their achievement.

Fiona Millington, director of nursing for brighterkind, said: "We have invested in supporting our registered nurses and senior care staff in our nursing homes with additional clinical training to develop their skills and understanding of the therapeutic care of older people.

"We have also invested in an ongoing programme to enhance the environment and facilities in our homes.

"At Broadway Halls we have nurses on duty 24 hours a day. The judges commented on our focus on developing a positive team culture."

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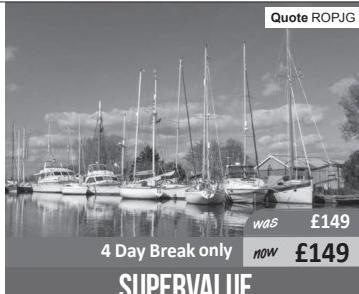


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# **Brilliantly danced but flawed at the source**



A scene from *The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas*, featuring alternate cast members Matthew Koon and Filippo Di Vilio

### **The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas, Wolverhampton Grand**

I CAN'T get beyond the dancing Nazis, a sight so fundamentally bizarre that I am left in two minds about this superbly choreographed and brilliantly danced production from the Leeds-based Northern Ballet.

I have a problem with the source, John Boyne's hugely popular Holocaust novel, which has also been made into a successful film and play, the latter having already visited the Grand.

Boyne's story about a concentration camp commandant's son who, unaware of the horrors on his doorstep, joins his new friend behind the barbed wire with tragic results brings melodrama to a subject where no manipulation of emotions is required.

### **BY LEON BURAKOWSKI**

Mass murder is already deeply upsetting.

I doubt if any child could so easily have got into a guarded, fenced camp and, besides, at Auschwitz, where the story is set, I understand that the vast majority of children were murdered on arrival.

Perhaps there is an argument that to personify the tragedy, like Steven Spielberg did with the red coated girl in Schindler's List, brings it home.

This isn't the only flaw. There is a figure of evil, a gas mask wearing wraith in black, to personify Hitler's twisted ideology. The Fury (from Führer) was danced with slithery ser-

pentine precision by Giuliano Contadini. However, the suggestions that his Nazis' actions were the result of his whispered instructions let's the ill-fated Bruno's father and his SS thugs off the hook - 'just following orders'.

There is no doubt that this production is well-intentioned and audience sensibilities are considered, which explains the absence of swastikas.

Daniel de Andrade's choreography contrasts regimented moves of the Nazis with the youthful glee of Bruno (excellent Kevin Poeung) and his sister Gretel (an eye-catching Rachael Gillespie) and the laboured, aching moves of prisoners, personified by the exceptional Luke Francis as Shmuil.

But, for me, pirouetting Nazis were a (dance) step too far.

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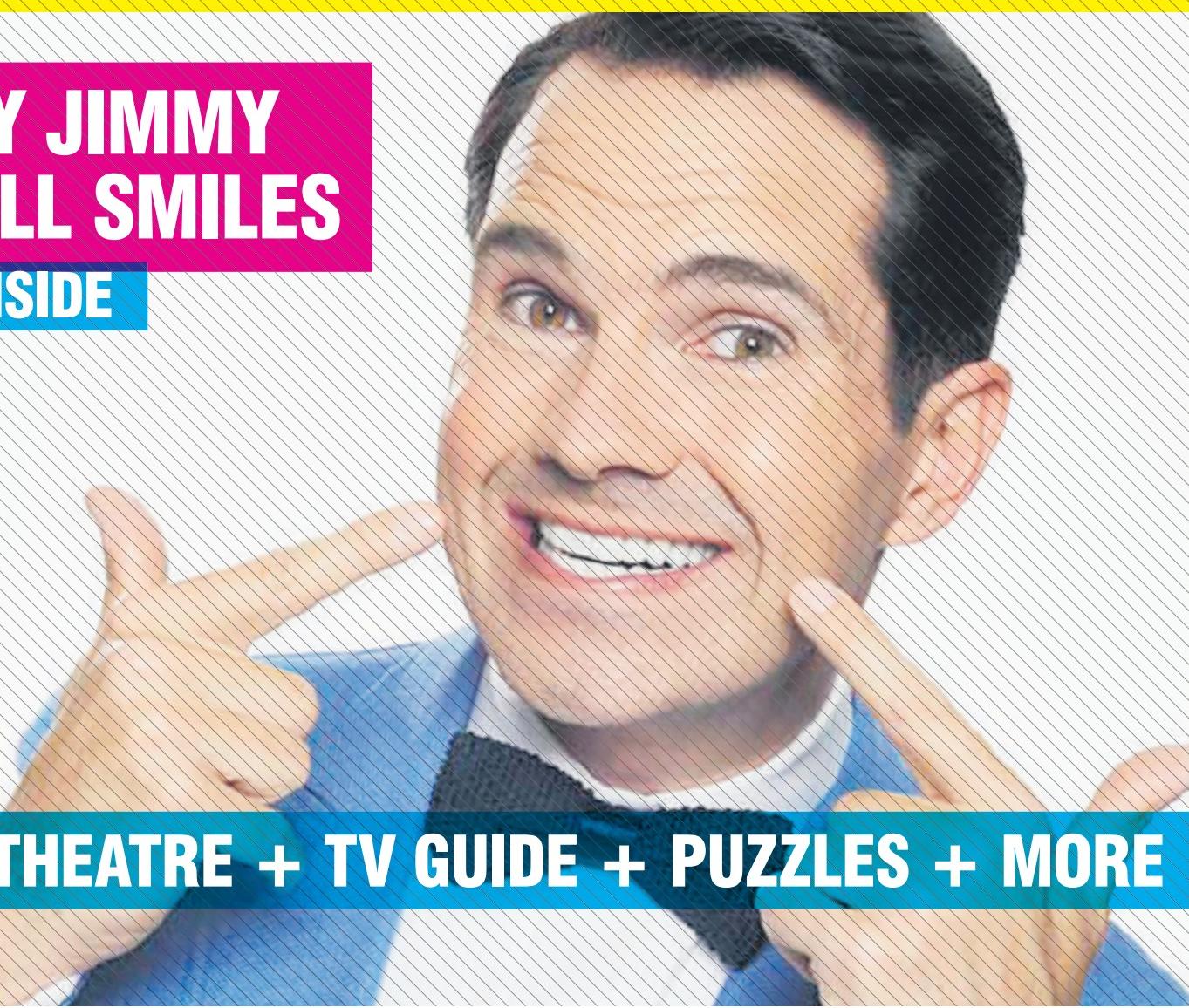
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# It's only a joke if the audience laugh

**F**unnyman Jimmy Carr has been one of nation's most successful stand-up comics, since launching his career in 2000.

The deadpan master of dark humour has also become a household name through his work on the Channel 4 panel show 8 Out of 10 Cats and The Big Fat Quiz of the Year.

He's back on the road after gathering a selection of his very best jokes along with brand new material for the ultimate comedy show. Jimmy will headline Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Saturday in The Best of, Ultimate Gold, Greatest Hits Tour.

A man who has devoted his life to crafting perfect jokes and has left a trail of laughter in his wake, his new tour will distill everything we love to laugh at and be shocked by, into one unparalleled night of entertainment.

During his years in stand-up, Jimmy has performed nine sell-out tours, playing nearly 2,000 shows to over two million people across four continents. He's won the British Comedy Award for Best Live Stand-Up Tour and been nominated for the Perrier Award.

At the start of his career, Jimmy had no plans to work in TV. "I had no aspiration as a kid at all. If I'd known that it was possible to work in television, I would have wanted to be a producer; but I didn't know anyone in that world. It wasn't an option."

"Instead I took the line of least resistance. I grew up in middle-class Berkshire, so I was obviously going to do A Levels and try to get to the best university possible.

"The fact I've lost my Catholic faith would probably come as the biggest surprise."

"I got to Cambridge and then worked way too hard to get a job in marketing for a blue-chip company. It was amazing that at no point during those years did I think, 'What the devil am I up to?'

"My young self would be a bit shocked that in my mid-20s I made a conscious decision to do something completely out of the ordinary. I left my well-paid job to join the circus."

**SUSHI**

"The whole being-on-television thing would seem a bit surreal to my younger self. I think I'd also be a bit concerned at the lack of work I do: I only have to do two hours a day max to be considered the hardest working man in comedy."

"I was a little bit melancholy as a youngster but I'm a lot happier now. Doing comedy makes me happy."

Jimmy has taken his show around the world and has proved a hit in Japan. He was thrilled to fly out to the Land of the Rising Sun.

"I desperately wanted to go to Japan. My promoter friend and I are obsessed with food. So we were looking at places to go and tour with amazing restaurants so we can go and eat some amazing food. And Tokyo was number one on our list. We basically put it in the tour so we could eat incredible Japanese food. It is the best in the world. If you like watching documentaries on people making sushi, which I do, who doesn't want to go to Japan?"

In an age of observational comedy, Jimmy is happy to go it alone and tell jokes. He has no axe to grind and just likes making people laugh.

"In this day and age people don't do one-line jokes. There's an American tradition of telling people about their lives. But I don't mean it. It's not like I'm telling jokes but there's a message there. I have no axe to grind. I'm an entertainer. I'm not trying to be a wise man. My thing on

controversy is it's an easy story on a slow news day. I never apologise for jokes. At most I've said sorry you're upset. It was a joke! I'm only joking. I'm not making a serious political statement; I'm just making you laugh.

"You have to be respectful of the right to be offended but I will joke about anything as long as the joke is good enough to warrant it. There's got to be a gut-wrenching laugh. My favourite noise in comedy is a laugh followed by an intake of breath. Because a laugh is a reflex. A sharp intake is their conscience saying they shouldn't have laughed at that. The audience regulate comedy in a way that doesn't happen in other art forms. If the audience don't laugh it wasn't even a joke, it was just two sentences strung together. Ultimately, they are the arbiters of taste and decency and what's funny."

Jimmy's new show deals with many of the funniest jokes he's ever told and he's perfectly happy to return to that material. He thinks people will enjoy hearing the best gags again – just as rock fans love listening to their favourite band's hits.

"I'm quite an old fashioned comedian in a strange way, because not many people do one liners anymore – not many people do jokes. They might do a long story that's got a lots of laughs along the way and then a big punch line at the end and if you've heard that before, you know where it goes and the surprise is done. But when you're telling three, four gags a minute, I think you can go back. People forget them."

"People tell me my own jokes. It's one of my favourite things: at the end of the show there's always a signing and people kind of go 'I've got one you're going to love' and you go 'Yes – that's from my second DVD!' It's a lovely thing when they live on in someone else's head. It's quite sweet. But I'm not frightened by it because I've sort of been doing best-of shows on the quiet for years – they're called corporates."

Perceptions of Jimmy have changed over the year. Once he was thought of as the dark prince of comedy, an enfant terrible who'd tell scandalous gags. However, opinions towards him have mellowed – even though his material hasn't. He's happy to no longer be in the spotlight – and even happier that he's more successful than ever.

"I'm probably bigger now than I've ever been, but it's less of a story. I can sell lots of tickets, I can play shows, but it's kind of under the radar. But it's when you're on the up and you'll be famous in a year, everyone comes to see you. I think it's because it's almost irritating: 'Who's this new guy? He's come from nowhere!' I was really conscious of this one year, when I was on Channel 4 like four nights a week and people were like 'what?'. Now if I do that, people just go 'oh yeah, course he is.'

Jimmy's appetite for comedy started at an early age. During his school years, he was part of a gang where the objective was to make one another laugh.

"If you weren't funny at school, you weren't one of our friends. That taught me to handle hecklers. Having a good sense of humour was how you'd be in the group. Everyone was just very, very good. That really has been a lifelong love of mine – taking the piss and knowing where to draw the line. If someone heckles me now I just think, 'OK, here we go. I've been

doing this for years!'" And though he's now thought of as being one of the hardest working men in showbusiness, in fact, he used to work much harder.

"I really enjoyed working after university in advertising and marketing. I'd tell myself at 16 it is nice to have a relatable and normal life. If you go straight into showbusiness you are never really grateful for how easy it is. And it is really easy. When you start doing comedy it is the first time you are self-employed so you think you are never going to do any more gigs than this – so you do all of them. I remember for the first four years in comedy I was doing upwards of 300 gigs a year. If someone asked me if I wanted to go to Plymouth for £60 I'd say yes. I was paying my dues."

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.



*I was a little bit  
melancholy as a  
youngster but I'm  
a lot happier now*

The amazing Illumaphonium



## Grand nights out form part of city's Artsfest 2017

The Grand Theatre has teamed with the University of Wolverhampton, Arena Theatre and other arts organisations in the city to celebrate Artsfest during June.

The festival of arts and culture in Wolverhampton and surrounding areas starts today (Thursday) and continues until June 30.

Artsfest is celebrating the cultural life of the Black Country and emerging artists whose work is made in the region. Both professional and student work will be on show in more than 20 venues across the city.

Artsfest 2017 will include more than 70 events in the fields of performing arts, poetry and literature, film, media, art and design.

Grand Theatre contributions to the programme include the stage adaption of Michael Morpurgo's

Running Wild until Saturday. Then Brummie comic Don Maclean tops a bill at the Grand Music Hall on June 14 which also features Grand panto dame Ian Adams and Gill Jordan, best known for her alter-ego Doreen.

Other Grand highlights will include comedian Stewart Lee, Mod musical All Or Nothing featuring the music of The Small Faces, and flamboyant musical La Cage Aux Folles with West End stars John Partridge and Marti Webb.

Highlights at other venues include Wolves Are People Too at the Arena Theatre on Saturday, free event, Reynard The Fox: The Fabularium, at the Mander Centre on June 16. Illumaphonium is a free music installation at Light House Media Centre between noon and 8pm on June 17. A full list of events can be found in the brochure at participating venues or online at wlv.ac.uk/artsfest.

## High hopes for Ruth's Pan fantasy



Birmingham Royal Ballet performs the world premiere of Arcadia at Birmingham Hippodrome this month.

The one-act ballet is the first major commission as choreographer for Birmingham Royal Ballet dancer Ruth Brill (pictured), and will be part of a three ballet programme alongside Michael Corder's Le Baiser de la fée and John Cranko's ever-popular Pineapple Poll.

Arcadia was born when BRB director David Bintley mentioned John Harle's music to Ruth. The Tyneside-born musician is probably best known for composing the theme to TV's Silent Witness and for working with Michael Nyman.

After watching her initial work, Bintley commissioned Ruth to choreograph Arcadia. Designed by Birmingham City University student Atena Ameri and accompanied by a striking new score from saxophonist Harle, this new work is centred around the Ancient Greek god Pan and his dual nature, as half-man, half-animal.

The Kent-born ballerina says: "This is an incredible opportunity for me as a young choreographer. It is rare for an artistic director to give an opportunity like this."

"I've learnt so much from David throughout this process and it's an honour to be part of the choreographic legacy of Birmingham Royal Ballet."

Ruth is no stranger to

choreographing for diverse projects, both her Rhapsody In Blue and Matryosha for BRB were memorable, but Arcadia represents her biggest challenge to date.

She says: "This is the first time I've worked with a composer and the collaboration with John Harle has been wonderful. We are also honoured that he will be performing live at every show."

Designer Atena Ameri has taken a year out from her degree at BCU to design the brand-new ballet, after wowing ballet bosses with her exceptional portfolio.

Birmingham Royal Ballet perform family favourite Coppélia from June 13 to 17. Then Arcadia is top of the triple bill from June 21 to 24. See www.brab.org.uk for further details.

## Future has arrived with Kraftwerk



No doubt what the gig of the week is, the ultra-rare and long sold out 3D concert by Kraftwerk at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Tuesday.

The appearance by the robotic German synth pioneers is eagerly-awaited by fans of the group, whose melodic minimalist machine music has been highly influential on rock and dance music.

Since Kraftwerk emerged from Düsseldorf in the 70s, singing 'Wir fahren fahren fahren auf der Autobahn', the future they predicted has arrived.

## Tributes from AC/DC through to the Big O

MUSICAL tributes are still all the rage. Wolverhampton Grand hosts And Finally... Phil Collins, an 11-piece band celebrating their tenth anniversary performing Phil Collins and Genesis songs, at the Lichfield Street venue on June 18. Over in Bilston at the Robin 2, tomorrow (Friday) The Doors Alive recreate the sound of Jim Morrison and co, then The Dirty DC rock like Aussie legends AC/DC on Saturday. Plus tributes to Slash on June 15 and Whip It outfit Devo on June 16. Novana play Cobain classics at the O2 Academy in Brum on Saturday, and the venue hosts Bat Sabbath, Cancer Bats' tribute to Black Sabbath on Wednesday. That's the same night Mercury: The Ultimate Queen Tribute is at the New Alexandra Theatre, which hosts The Illegal Eagles on June 15 and The Roy Orbison Story on June 16.



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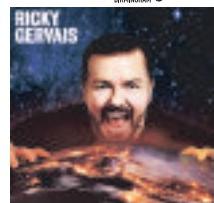
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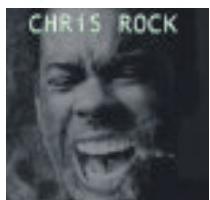
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**CHOICE**

Pixie Lott

**BBC1**

**6.00 Breakfast.** **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.** (11.30) Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **12.00 Bargain Hunt.** (R) **1.00 BBC News;** Weather. **1.15 Antiques Road Show;** Leisure. **2.00 The Wrights.** (R) **2.15 Escape to the Country.** (R) **3.15 More or Less;** Nothing. (R) **4.15 Pointless Celebrities.** (R) **5.05 BBC News;** **5.15 Regional Programme.** (5.25 Film: Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom. (1984) Action adventure, starring Harrison Ford.)

**7.15 Doctor Who.** The Time Lord, Bill and Nardole find themselves on Mars, but despite removing themselves from Earth, they still end up embroiled in yet another stand-off between humanity and alien forces. This time, though, mankind has become the aggressor. In a bid to extend their queen's empire into space, Victorian soldiers have somehow invaded the red planet, and their activities threaten to awaken a hive of militant Ice Warriors, for whom Mars is home. As tensions escalate, Doctor Who faces a unique dilemma. He has vowed to serve himself as its protector, but when it is the humans who are the invaders, whose side should he take? Sci-fi drama, starring Peter Capaldi, Pearl Mackie and Matt Lucas.

**8.00 Who Dares Wins.** Nick Knowles challenges two pairs of complete strangers to team up, and battle it out to list as much as they know about a given subject.

**8.45 Violence.** Violence at a right-wing rally outside a local Muslim community centre brings the Elliston family back into the ER, and gives Ethan a chance to confront Scott about Cal's death.

**9.30 Mrs Brown's Boys.** Agnes goes on a diet after her family's comments about her weight, but soon realises how difficult it will be to lay off the fish and chips. (R)

**10.00 BBC News;** Weather; National Lottery Update.

**10.20 Would I Lie to You?** Gareth Malone, Amanda Abbington, Richard Osman and Phil Jupitus join David Mitchell and guest captain Greg Davies on the truth-or-lies comedy panel show, hosted by Rob Brydon. (R)

**10.50 Film:** *Shanghai Noon.* (2000) Comedy Western, starring Jackie Chan and Owen Wilson.

**12.35 Weather for the Week Ahead.**

**12.40 BBC News.**

**BBC2**

**6.15 A to Z of TV Gardening.** (R) **7.00 Film:** Dance, Girl, Dance. (1940) **8.25 Film:** The Westerner. (1940) **10.00 Monty Halls'** Great Hebrew Escape. (R) **11.00 Homes Under the Hammer.** (R) **12.00 Great British Menu.** (R) **12.30 Great British Bake Off.** (R) **1.30 Bette Davis Talking Pictures.** (R) **2.15 Film:** Now, Voyager. (1942) Romantic drama, starring Bette Davis and Claude Rains. (R) **4.15 Flog It!** (R) **5.00 Gardeners' World.** (R)

**6.00 Great Continental Railway Journeys.** Michael Portillo ventures onto the European rail network to retrace journeys featured in George Bradshaw's 1913 publication Continental Guide. (R)

**6.30 Dad's Army.** (R)

**7.00 Royal Academy Summer Exhibition 2017.** Kirsty Wark and Brenda Emmanuel tour the Royal Academy galleries during a glamorous private preview of this year's Summer Exhibition, which is due to open to the public on Tuesday. The exhibition sees established British artists displaying work alongside that of less well-known contemporaries, and here, Kirsty and Brenda go behind the scenes of the event in the run-up to the grand opening. The pair meet some of the featured artists, and explore the process of curating the world's largest open submission exhibition.

**8.00 Live International Rugby Union.** Argentina v England (Kick-off 8.15pm). Jason Mohammad presents coverage of the opening match of the two-Test series, staged at the Estadio San Juan del Bicentenario in San Juan. This tour represents a chance for several players to stake a claim to a regular place in Eddie Jones' squad, with England missing their leading stars to the Lions' tour of New Zealand. With commentary by Eddie Butler and Andy Robinson, and analysis by Clive Woodward and Jeremy Guscott.

**10.30 Cricket: ICC Champions Trophy Highlights.** England v Australia.

**11.20 Versailles.** Louis XIV returns to Versailles vowing to purify his private life, while Madame de Montespan hopes to cement her place in his heart. George Blagden and Anna Brewster star; (R) Inside Versailles.

**12.20 Film:** *Elles.* (2011) **1.55 This Is BBC Two.**

**ITV**

**6.00 CITV:** Grizly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (6.10) Grizly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.25 Sooty.** (R) **6.35 Signed Stories:** Share a Story. (R) **6.40 Dino Dan:** Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50 Dino Dan: Odysseus.** (R) **7.05 Super 4.** (R) **7.20 Marvel Avengers Assemble.** (R) **7.45 Thunderbirds Are Go.** (R) **8.10 Ben 10.** **8.25 ITV News;** **8.30 Weekend;** **9.25 The Home Game.** (R) **10.20 Griff's Great Britain.** (R) **10.50 Britain's Got Talent Final.** (R) **1.20 ITV News;** Weather. **1.30 Live French Open Tennis.** John Inverdale presents coverage of the women's singles final. **4.30 World Cup Qualifier Live.** Scotland v England (Kick-off 5.00pm).

**7.30 Regional Programme:** Weather.

**7.35 ITV News;** Weather.

**7.45 The Voice Kids.** New series. Emma Willis introduces the junior version of the singing talent contest, giving youngsters between the ages of eight and 14 a chance to achieve stardom. The Voice UK's Will.i.am returns as one of the three coaches, with McFly's Danny Jones and pop star Pixie Lott occupying the other two spinning red chairs. Up for grabs this time is a £30,000 prize to contribute to the winning child's musical education, along with a family holiday to Disneyland Paris.

**CHANNEL 4**

**6.20 Motor Sport:** Volkswagen Racing Cup. **6.45 Motor Sport:** Mini Challenge. **7.15 Swansdale Thrashon.** (7.40) Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.05 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.30 Frasier.** (R) **9.00 Frasier.** (R) **9.30 Frasier.** (R) **10.00 Police Interceptors.** (R) **1.30 Police Interceptors.** (R) **2.30 101 Formula E Live.** The first Berlin ePrix race. **4.15 Nightmare Tenants.** Slum Landlords. (R) **5.15 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** (R)

**6.15 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** A pensioner who fell out with his young neighbour over his loud parties, and two musicians who were not even at home when their neighbours claimed they were making too much noise. (R)

**7.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Paul and Ben try to drill through the locks on a property to evict the residents, only to find to their surprise that the door has been modified with some special reinforced metal. Elsewhere, Delroy and Brian try to reclaim money a garage owes to a customer and are shocked by the condition of the vehicle in question, and a woman who has acted as guarantor for her sister's tenancy does not realise the extent of her responsibilities. (R)

**8.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** In Staffordshire agents try to collect nearly £2,500 in unpaid parking fines, as two officers head to the West Midlands to recover £4,500 owed from a debtor to his former girlfriend. (R)

**CHANNEL 5**

**6.00 Milkshake!** **10.05 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** (R) **10.40 The Gadget Show.** (R) **11.35 Police Interceptors.** (R) **12.35 Police Interceptors.** (R) **1.30 Police Interceptors.** (R) **2.30 101 Formula E Live.** The first Berlin ePrix race. **4.15 Nightmare Tenants.** Slum Landlords. (R) **5.15 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** (R)

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**8.55 5 News Weekend.**

**9.00 Big Brother.** Daily round-up of highlights, revealing the housemates' reactions to the first eviction, as well as the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs and diary room visits. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

**DIGITAL**

**BBC Four**

**7.00 Natural World Special:** Attenborough's Ark. **8.00 Nature's Great Events** 1990 Cardinal. **10.25 Top of the Pops:** 1984. **11.40 Metal at the BBC** 12.10 Britain's Most Dangerous Songs: Listen to the Banned. **1.10 More Dangerous Songs:** And the Banned Played On. **2.10 Meat Loaf:** In and Out of Hell. **3.10 Metal at the BBC** 3.40 Close

**ITV2**

**11.00 Take Me Out** 12.25 Take Me Out - Gold: The Next Generation 2.35 Film: What a Girl Wants (2003) 3.35 FYI Daily 3.40 Film: What a Girl Wants (2003) 4.40 Film: Happy Feet (2006) 5.40 FYI Daily 5.45 Film: Happy Feet (2006) 7.50 Film: Sweet Home Alabama (2002) 7.50 FYI Daily 7.55 Film: Sweet Home Alabama (2002) 9.00 Love Island: The Weekly Hot List 10.00 Celebrity Juice 10.45 Family Guy 12.15 American Dad! 1.10 Celebrity Juice: Bestest Bits 2017 2.10 Through the Keyhole 3.00 Teleshopping

**ITV3**

**12.55 Lewis** 3.00 Agatha Christie's Marple 7.00 Midsummers Murders 9.00 Foyle's War 11.00 Law & Order: UK 12.00 FYI 13.00 Nightshift 2.30 Teleshopping

**ITV4**

**11.00 The Motorbike Show** 1.00 TT 2.00 ITV Racing: Live from Haydock. Coverage of today's race meetings at Haydock Park, Newmarket and Chester. **4.25 Live French Open Tennis.** Coverage of the men's doubles final at Roland Garros. **6.30 Storage Wars** 6.55 The Sweeney 8.00 Cycling: Women's Tour Highlights 9.00 TT 2017 10.00 Cycling: Critérium du Dauphiné Highlights 11.05 Film: Transporter 3 (2008) 12.05 FYI Daily 12.10 Film: Transporter 3 (2008) 1.15 TT 2017 2.10 The Motorbike Show 3.00 Teleshopping

**E4**

**11.30 The Goldbergs** 1.25 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 2.25 Film: The Core (2003) 5.00 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: Pitch Perfect (2012) 11.15 Gogglebox 1.25 Rude Tube 3.20 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 4.05 First Dates Abroad 4.30 New Girl

**Film4**

**11.00 Gideon of Scotland Yard** (1958) 1.00 School of Rock (2003) 3.10 Carry On Nurse (1959) 4.55 Night at the Museum (2006) 7.05 Unstoppable (2010) 9.00 Red 2 (2013) 11.15 Legion (2010) 1.15 The French Connection (1971) 3.30 Close

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# SATURDAY'S TV JUNE 10

**CHANNEL 4**

**6.20 Motor Sport:** Volkswagen Racing Cup. **6.45 Motor Sport:** Mini Challenge. **7.15 Swansdale Thrashon.** (7.40) Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.05 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.30 Frasier.** (R) **9.00 Frasier.** (R) **9.30 Frasier.** (R) **10.00 Police Interceptors.** (R) **1.30 Police Interceptors.** (R) **2.30 101 Formula E Formula E Live.** The first Berlin ePrix race. **4.15 Nightmare Tenants.** Slum Landlords. (R) **5.15 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** (R)

**6.15 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** A pensioner who fell out with his young neighbour over his loud parties, and two musicians who were not even at home when their neighbours claimed they were making too much noise. (R)

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**8.55 5 News Weekend.**

**9.00 Big Brother.** Daily round-up of highlights, revealing the housemates' reactions to the first eviction, as well as the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs and diary room visits. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

**CHANNEL 5**

**6.00 Milkshake!** **10.05 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** (R) **10.40 The Gadget Show.** (R) **11.35 Police Interceptors.** (R) **12.35 Police Interceptors.** (R) **1.30 Police Interceptors.** (R) **2.30 101 Formula E Live.** The first Berlin ePrix race. **4.15 Nightmare Tenants.** Slum Landlords. (R) **5.15 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** (R)

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# SUNDAY'S TV JUNE 11

## CHOICE



Aiden Turner

### Poldark (BBC1, 9.00pm)

New series. The popular period drama based on the novels of Winston Graham returns. The year is 1794, and Ross Poldark throws himself into the business of repairing Nampara, and rebuilding his relationship with Demelza. However, Elizabeth's pregnancy continues to cast a shadow over the pair's marriage. Young Geoffrey Charles is placed in the care of a new governess, and he and Poldark bond over their shared hatred of George. Meanwhile, Demelza visits her dying father at the behest of her brothers, who have taken up Methodism, and Elizabeth places both her own life and that of her unborn child in danger when she tries to hide the fact that she has gone into labour early.

## BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.** **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Regional Programme.
- 11.15** The Big Questions. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.00** Fog It! (R) **4.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.45** Points of View. **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** Eat Well for Less? (R)
- 6.35** BBC News.
- 6.50** Regional Programme.
- 7.00** **Countryside.** The rural current affairs series visits Northern Ireland, where Joe heads into the woods near Belfast to help members of the RSPB tag swifts. He also tours a farm where physalis, mustard flowers and Asian radishes are found growing alongside the usual fare of potatoes, carrots and cabbages. Ella takes in sites associated with St Patrick on Church Island, and Adam finds out why herdwick sheep are being used to graze on ground where some of the UK's rarest plants are found.
- 8.00** **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce presents a second show from New Lanark on the banks of the Clyde, where items brought in to be valued include diamonds that were found after being hidden inside an upholstered chair, a claret jug that was rescued from a pawn shop, and a banner for Britain's oldest subscription library, founded in 1741.
- 9.00** **Poldark.** New series. The popular period drama based on the novels of Winston Graham returns. The year is 1794, and Ross Poldark throws himself into the business of repairing Nampara, and rebuilding his relationship with Demelza. However, Elizabeth's pregnancy continues to cast a shadow over the pair's marriage. Young Geoffrey Charles is placed in the care of a new governess, and he and Poldark bond over their shared hatred of George.
- 10.00 BBC News.**
- 10.20 Regional Programme.**
- 10.30 Film:** Captain America: The Winter Soldier. (2014) The superhero soldier battles a mysterious cyborg assassin as he uncovers a sinister conspiracy. Comic-book thriller sequel, starring Chris Evans.
- 12.35** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.40** BBC News.

## BBC2

- 6.15** The Instant Gardener. (R) **7.05** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.05** The Beechgrove Garden. **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Great British Menu. (R) **11.30** Great British Menu. (R) **12.00** Salling: America's Cup Highlights. **1.00** Triathlon: World Championship Series – Leeds. The ITU World Series meeting from Leeds.
- 6.00** **The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway.** Engineer Linda Miller battles to rebuild a Victorian tunnel under the Royal Docks in the East End as part of the Crossrail train line linking east and west London. Meanwhile, the Birminghams attempt to follow in the footsteps of 19th-century father-and-son team Marc and Isambard Kingdom Brunel as they construct a new tunnel beneath the Thames. (R)
- 7.00** **Dragons' Den.** The panel casts their eyes over plans for an innovative tool and a portable water-saving device – but a restaurateur struggles to get across his business plan. Evan Davis presents. (R)
- 8.00** **The Life Swap Adventure.** A Guyanese hunter from a rural village in the Amazon rainforest trades places with a civil servant from London who is dreaming of escaping the relentless rat race.
- 9.00** **Paul Hollywood's Big Continental Road Trip.** The Bake Off judge concludes his trip in France, where he tries to find out what makes the country tick when it comes to cars.
- 10.00 Mock the Week: Election Special.** Angela Barnes, Ed Gamble, James Acaster, Milton Jones and Tez Ilyas join Dara Ó Briain and Hugh Dennis for the topical comedy show. (R)
- 10.30 White Gold.** Comedy drama set in a double-glazing showroom in Essex in the 1980s, where the unscrupulous salesmen are led by the charismatic Vincent Swan. Ed Westwick stars. (R)
- 11.00 Cricket ICC Champions Trophy Highlights.** India v South Africa.
- 11.50 Film:** Kings of Curry. (2013) A woman planning her wedding wants both her father and her uncle to attend, so has to resolve their long-standing feud. Comedy, starring Amara Karan. In English and Hindi.
- 1.10 Sign Zone: Countryside.** (R) **2.05** Holby City. (R) **3.05** This is BBC Two.

## ITV

- 6.00** CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.25** Sooty. (R) **6.35** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Dino Dan's Dino Day. (R) **7.00** Dino Dan: Dino Dan's Dino Day. (R) **7.20** Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) **7.45** Thunderbirds Are Go! (R) **8.10** Ben 10. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Britain's Best Walks with Julia Bradbury. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Judge Rinder. (R) **11.55** The Voice Kids. (R) **1.25** ITV News; Weather. **1.30** Live French Open Tennis. John Inverdale presents coverage of the men's singles final on the 15th day.
- 6.30** **Regional Programme;** Weather. **6.45** ITV News; Weather.
- 7.00** **Vera.** DCI Stanhope and her team, including new recruit DCI Hicham Cheradji, travel to a remote country house when the woman looking after it is killed. No sooner have they arrived, than a second body is discovered. Vera discovers the two victims met the night before their deaths, and goes in search of a connection between them. Forensics evidence reveals that one was definitely present when the other died – but when no murder weapon or motive can be found, Vera begins to suspect a third party was involved. (R)
- 9.00** **The Loch.** New series. The search for a serial killer in the area around Loch Ness becomes a matter of life and death for local detective Alan McAllister. He is trying to cope with her first major case. When the body of a local man is found at the foot of Carn Mhor Mountain and an isolated human heart on the loch shore, the town's normality is shattered and the nightmare begins. Drama, starring Laura Fraser and Siobhan Finneran.
- 10.00** ITV News; Weather.
- 10.20** **World Cup Qualifier Highlights.** Action from the latest round of qualifying fixtures, including Scotland v England, Serbia v Wales, Azerbaijan v Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland v Austria.
- 11.35** **Lethal Weapon.** Cahill is targeted by a murderous stalker. Riggs begins to obsess over Murtaugh's past, while Roger and Trish locate their daughter's fake ID. (R)
- 12.30** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.20** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **6.45** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Frasier. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Eating Well with Howard. (R) **9.00** George's Farm. (R) **9.15** Only the Lonely. (R) **9.30** The White Van. (R) **10.15** Only the Lonely. (R) **10.30** The White Van. (R) **7.20** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.35** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.00** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.15** Whisper. (R) **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Shimmy and Shine. (R) **9.05** Little Princess. (R) **9.20** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.35** Pappa Pig. (R) **9.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **10.05** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.40** Film: Agent Cody Banks. (2003) Family spy adventure, starring Franka Potente. (R) **1.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.40** Police Interceptors: Deadly Pursuit. (R) **2.30** FIA Formula E Live. The second Berlin ePrix race. **4.15** Film: Footloose. (1984) Drama, starring Kevin Bacon.
- 6.25** **Film:** Dirty Dancing. (2017) Premier. Musical remake of the romantic drama. Abigail Breslin stars as an awkward teenager staying with her family at a holiday camp in the 1960s. She embarks on a life-changing romance with the camp's charismatic dance instructor (Cory Monteith), despite the disapproval of her parents and the condemnation of society in general. With Bruce Greenwood, Debra Messing and Billy Dee Williams. Edited for sexual content.
- 8.55** **5 News Weekend.**
- 9.00** **Big Brother.** Daily round-up of the housemates, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.
- 10.15** **Formula 1: Hamilton vs Vettel.** A look at the rivalry between Lewis Hamilton and Sébastien Vettel, two multiple champions who seems destined to challenge for the title again this season.
- 10.30** **Formula 1: Canadian Grand Prix Highlights.** Action from the seventh round of the season at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in Montreal. Lewis Hamilton was looking for his third successive victory in this race and sixth overall.
- 12.35** **Grand Prix:** The Killer Years. (R) **1.35** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

- 6.00** Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. **6.05** Mr Men. (R) **6.15** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.20** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.25** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.30** Whisper. (R) **6.35** Paw Patrol. (R) **6.50** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.00** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.15** Only the Lonely. (R) **7.30** The White Van. (R) **7.45** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.50** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.00** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.15** Whisper. (R) **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Shimmy and Shine. (R) **9.05** Little Princess. (R) **9.20** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.35** Pappa Pig. (R) **9.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **10.05** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.40** Film: Agent Cody Banks. (2003) Family spy adventure, starring Franka Potente. (R) **1.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.40** Police Interceptors: Deadly Pursuit. (R) **2.30** FIA Formula E Live. The second Berlin ePrix race. **4.15** Film: Footloose. (1984) Drama, starring Kevin Bacon.
- 6.25** **Film:** Despicable Me 2. (2013) **7.00** Film: Coyote Ugly (2000) **8.00** Film: Coyote Ugly (2000) **9.00** Film: Love Island: Afternoon. (2015) **10.00** Film: Love Island: Afternoon. (2015) **12.30** American Dad! **1.30** Totally Bonkers: Guiness World Records: Bonkingly Big Hits **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen
- 12.05** **Film:** Death on the Nile (1978) **1.05** FTV Daily **1.10** Film: Death on the Nile (1978) **2.55** FTV Daily: War on the Nile (1978) **3.00** Film: The Flintstones (1994) **12.55** Film: The Flintstones (1994) **3.15** Film: St Trinian's (2007) **2.35** FTV Daily **2.40** Film: St Trinian's (2007) **3.30** Film: The Devil Wears Prada (2006) **3.45** Film: Despicable Me 2 (2013) **6.00** Film: The Devil Wears Prada (2006) **6.15** Film: Despicable Me 2 (2013) **7.00** Film: Coyote Ugly (2000) **8.00** Film: Coyote Ugly (2000) **9.00** Film: Love Island: Afternoon. (2015) **10.00** Film: Love Island: Afternoon. (2015) **12.30** American Dad! **1.30** Film: Guiness World Records: Bonkingly Big Hits **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen
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- 10.00** **Film:** Friends with Kids. (2011) **1.00** Film: Big Brother. Daily round-up of the housemates, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.
- 12.10** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** (R) **1.05** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Film: Fighter Attack. (1953) Second World War drama, starring Sterling Hayden. **4.35** Acces. **4.50** House Doctor. (R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

## DIGITAL

- BBC Four**
- 7.00** Nigel Slater: Life Is Sweet **8.00** The Secret Life of the Motorway **9.00** Horizon: Secrets of the Solar System **10.00** Inside God's Observatory: A Sky at Night Special **10.30** Britain's Star Men: Heroes of Astronomy **11.30** Horizon: 40 Years of the Moon **12.30** Nature's Great Events **1.30** Engineering Giants: Ferry Strip-Down **2.30** Britain's Star Men: Heroes of Astronomy **3.30** Close
- 1TV2**
- 7.50** Film: The Flintstones (1994) **12.50** FTV Daily **12.55** Film: The Flintstones (1994) **1.35** Film: St Trinian's (2007) **2.35** FTV Daily **2.40** Film: St Trinian's (2007) **3.30** Film: The Devil Wears Prada (2006) **3.45** Film: Despicable Me 2 (2013) **6.00** Film: The Devil Wears Prada (2006) **6.15** Film: Despicable Me 2 (2013) **7.00** Film: Coyote Ugly (2000) **8.00** Film: Coyote Ugly (2000) **9.00** Film: Love Island: Afternoon. (2015) **10.00** Film: Love Island: Afternoon. (2015) **12.30** American Dad! **1.30** Film: Guiness World Records: Bonkingly Big Hits **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen
- 1TV3**
- 12.05** **Film:** Death on the Nile (1978) **1.05** FTV Daily **1.10** Film: Death on the Nile (1978) **2.55** FTV Daily: War on the Nile (1978) **3.00** Film: Midsummers Murders **7.00** When Phillip Met Prince Philip: 60 Years of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award **8.00** Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans **9.00** Joanna Lumley's Japan **10.00** Law & Order: UK **12.00** Wire in the Blood **3.25** May the Best House Win **5.10** On the Buses **5.35** ITV2 Nightscreen
- E4**
- 11.00** New Girl **11.30** Kevin Can Wait **12.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **12.30** Film: Turner & Hooch (1989) **2.30** The Goldbergs **3.30** The Big Bang Theory **7.25** World Cup Qualifier Live. Macedonia v Spain (Kick-off 7.45pm) **10.00** Cycling: Critérium du Dauphiné Highlights **11.00** Cycling: Women's Tour Highlights **12.00** River Monsters **2.10** Tommy Cooper **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen
- 11.00** New Girl **11.30** Kevin Can Wait **12.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **12.30** Film: Turner & Hooch (1989) **2.30** The Goldbergs **3.30** The Big Bang Theory **6.30** Film: Star Trek (2009) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Rue Tube **11.00** Gogglebox **1.10** 8 Out of 10 Cats **2.00** Rude Tube
- Film4**
- 11.00** ParaNorman (2012) **1.00** The Seeker: The Dark Is Rising (2007) **3.00** Epic (2013) **5.05** Vice Versa (1988) **7.00** Ride Along (2014) **9.00** Escape Plan (2013) **11.15** Oldboy (2013)

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**FILM CHOICES****MONDAY****Parenthood, ITV, 10.40pm**

Anxious family man Gil Buckman is determined to have a better relationship with his three children than he had with his tough father. Elsewhere, his two sisters are also having family problems. Comedy drama, starring Steve Martin, Keanu Reeves, Mary Steenburgen and Jason Robards. (1989)

**TUESDAY****Taken Back: Finding Haley, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

A woman whose daughter goes missing spends years obsessing over finding her. She meets a girl who she becomes convinced is her child, and tries to prove that her parents are in fact kidnappers. Thriller, starring Moira Kelly and Amanda Tapping. (2012)

**WEDNESDAY****Outrageous Fortune, Channel 4, 1.55am**

A porn star and a drama student discover they have one thing in common – they are being two-timed by the same man. When their lover mysteriously disappears, they team up to find him, only to learn he is an agent of a foreign power. Comedy, starring Bette Midler, Shelley Long and Robert Prosky. (1987)



Confetti, Friday, BBC2, 11.05pm

**THURSDAY****Expecting Amish, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

An Amish teenager joins her friends in Los Angeles, expecting to return home after a year and marry her boyfriend. She has an affair with a DJ during the break, which shakes her devotion to her culture. When she realises she is pregnant, she faces being ostracised from her family. Drama, starring AJ Michalka and Alyson Stoner. (2014)

**FRIDAY****Confetti, BBC2, 11.05pm**

Three couples compete for the title of Most Original Wedding of the Year, with a film crew following the preparations. Theatre-loving Matt and Sam plan a musical marriage, naturalists Michael and Joanna brave the elements for their all-nude nuptials, while fiercely competitive Josef and Isabelle warm up for a sporty ceremony. Spoof documentary, starring Martin Freeman, Jessica Hynes and Robert Webb. (2006)

# A lawyer aiming to put right miscarriages of justice

**W**ho said there aren't enough roles for women of a certain age on TV?

Clearly they haven't been watching the box during the past few years, because this is a golden period for such dramas.

Sarah Lancashire recently won a Bafta for her brilliant performance in the second series of Happy Valley, while Helen McCrory in Hollyoaks co-star Nicola Walker has had big roles in River and Unforgotten. Anna Friel is currently appearing in the BBC's Broken and previous starred in ITV's Marcella.

And then there's Helen McCrory. Although always hugely talented, she's come into her own in recent years, with roles Peaky Blinders, Penny Dreadful, Leaving and now this new, six-part drama.

It's been created and written by Patrick Harbinson, whose previous credits include 24 and Homeland (which starred McCrory's husband, Damian Lewis).

"A few years ago I was asked if I would be interested in writing a

drama about a radical lawyer," explains Harbinson, "I said yes – as long as the stories could have a strong political element to them, ie they were set in the grey area where politics and law could collide, and as long as the lawyer in question could be something of a throwback – an 'unreconstructed lefty lawyer', as Michael Gambon's character calls her.

"The result was Emma Banville, played by Helen McCrory. Fearless is about an abuse of justice. Kevin Russell is convicted of murdering 15-year-old Linda Simms in 2003, and an abuse of power – political forces with no obvious connection to the case are determined to ensure Russell's conviction is upheld."

He adds: "If there's a point to this series, beyond what I hope is six entertaining hours of TV, it's that this apparently 'indefensible' person could one day be any of us – just as one day it was Stefan Kiszkó, Christopher Jefferies and five Irishmen on a train from Birmingham – and let's hope there's an Emma there to defend us."

"We've seen strong female leads on TV, but Patrick Harbinson has created a character I've never seen before," says McCrory. "A very vulnerable her to the next generation. A woman who really is a pioneer and is finding her own way. A reaction to her own damaged past, but also Emma cares so much about what's happening in the world about her."

"Emma feels alone. She's not part of an establishment. She's not part of a gang. You see her on the street and you see her investigating and trying to find out the truth. That really touched me because I felt this is exactly where the world is at the moment."

McCrory is at the heart and soul of the drama, but she's surrounded by other fine talents, including the aforementioned Gambon, who plays an influential and highly respected academic, Winnie Mosaku, who takes the role of Olivia Greenwood, who investigated the Linda Simms case, and John Bishop, who has been cast as Emma's partner.



Jonathan Forbes and Helen McCrory star in Fearless, Monday, ITV, 9pm

## BEST OF THE REST

being evicted. Filmed over nine months, this film follows 42-year-old swimming trainer Chrissy Morris and his friends who are battling the system, spending their spare time travelling around the country and stopping the bailiffs in their tracks.

**FRIDAY**  
**Gardeners' World**  
**BBC2, 9pm**

The programme celebrates its 50th anniversary at Gardeners' World Live at Birmingham's NEC. Joe Swift and Adam Frost explore the show gardens and meet a designer who has created a garden showcasing 50 years of changing trends.

**Lethal Weapon**  
**ITV, 9pm**

Riggs and Murtaugh are forced once more to work with DEA agent Karen Palmer in order to protect Leo Getz, an ambulance-chasing attorney linked to the Cartel. As the three delve further into the case, they begin to realise that Leo may not be the only one with a target on his back. Meanwhile, Riggs begins to view Agent Palmer in a new light, while Murtaugh is left worried after Trish makes a spontaneous decision. Damon Wayans, Clayne Crawford and Hilarie Burton star in this fast-paced series, based on the hit, big-screen movie.

**MONDAY****Amazing Animal Births****ITV, 8pm**

New series. Zoologist Lucy Cooke sees first-hand the incredible bond between animals and their newborn offspring. She begins by heading to the Yorkshire Dales to join shepherdess Amanda Owen and her husband Clive, who have more than a thousand sheep that lamb on some of the toughest terrain in Britain. Lucy then visits Howlets Wild Animal Park in Kent, which is part of animal conservation charity The Aspinall Foundation, where she witnesses the birth of a black rhino - of which there are only around 2,500 left in the wild.

**How to Stay Well****Channel 4, 8.30pm**

New series. GPs Phil Kieran and Helen Lawal and A&E doctor Javid Abdellahneim investigate worrying medical stories, finding out which ones people should really be concerned about and what can be done to stay healthy. In the first edition, Javid heads to the New Forest to discover whether it is possible to get Lyme disease while walking the dog. Phil carries out an experiment to learn if smart phones are affecting men's fertility, and Helen looks into new research into how far a sneeze can carry disease.

**TUESDAY****Jo Cox: Death of an MP****BBC2, 9pm**

On June 16, 2016, in the midst of EU referendum campaigning, Jo Cox MP was murdered by Thomas Mair. This documentary tells the story of her attack and events surrounding it via the testimony of those closest to it, including Jo's family, witnesses and those who knew the killer. The victim's political convictions and the issues she fought for clashed with Mair's viewpoint, which some believe motivated him to kill. Here, access to West Yorkshire Police's murder investigation is drawn together for the first time.

**WEDNESDAY****Ackley Bridge****Channel 4, 8pm**

Jordan finds himself in charge of a baby that he has to sneak into school, but it is harder to conceal than he first anticipated, so blackmails PE teacher Steve into helping him out. Unable to return it to its mother, a stumped Steve ends up taking Jordan and the baby back to his house.

**THURSDAY****Wife Swap: Brexit Special****Channel 4, 9pm**

The reality show returns for a one-off edition. Pauline, Andi and 14-year-old Katie live on Canvey Island - the area with the nation's third highest 'out' vote. For seven days, bar worker Pauline swaps her home, job and family with psychotherapist and Green Party councillor Kat, who lives in rural Nottinghamshire with her partner Roger and 17-year-old daughter Sophie. These strong-minded women immerse themselves in each other's lives and face issues around immigration, class and racism. But will they hear anything that changes their mind about Brexit?



Wife Swap: Brexit Special, Thursday, Channel 4, 9pm

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**LAUNCHES**  
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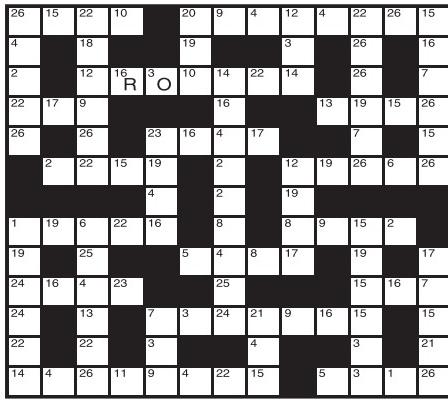
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# BRAIN GYM

No.433

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
D	X	F	Z	A	E	J	T	H	O	Q	B	L	
Y	S	K	M	I	G	W	C	N	R	V	U	P	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

## Quiz

- What did Christopher Cockerell invent in 1959?
- Who wrote the book Perestroika in 1987?
- Which Thomas Hardy novel is subtitled 'A Pure Woman'?
- Which lake's German name is Bodensee?
- What is Fats Domino's real first name?
- Of what is a naevus a type?
- To which country do the Azores belong?
- With which instrument is Ravi Shankar chiefly associated?
- What animal has Indian, African black and broad-lipped varieties?
- Whose most famous role was Norman Bates?

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

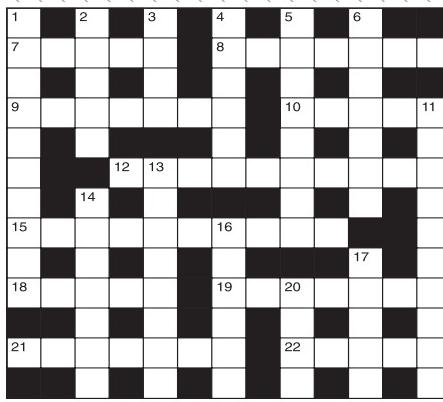
### Cryptic Clues:

#### Across

- He has a short way to pull (5)
- Guard gives a warning (4,3)
- A show presented before the show (7)
- Not above using two foreign articles (5)
- A source of light at the seance? (6,4)
- Thought one had respected other people's feelings (10)
- Not going to any great lengths to be polite (5)
- Brightened up when found not guilty (7)
- Weeds prepared for eating (5)

#### Down

- In the main, they're disasters (10)
- Scene of a towering row (5)
- It's never been seen, still I follow it (4)
- A runner, but not in the vegetable garden (6)
- She vainly seeks masculine attentions (8)
- Warm drink (7)
- Some steps that have to be suspended (4-6)
- Artists keep a boat by the bank (8)
- In a bad temper the day none came round (7)
- Makes it correct for me to be in tails (6)
- Possibly eager to correspond (5)
- Ill-considered evidence of a feverish disposition (4)
- Play (5)
- Tableland (7)
- Upside-down (7)
- Weary (5)
- Charming (10)
- Disparity (10)
- Loop (5)
- Pedagogue (7)
- Exhaust (7)
- Precise (5)



### Quick Clues:

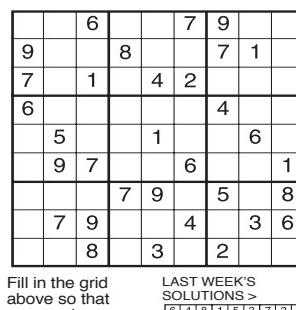
#### Across

- High regard (10)
- Bisect (5)
- Brace (4)
- Seem (6)
- Disciplinarian (8)
- Chorus (7)
- Deteriorate (10)
- Offensive (8)
- Spring back (7)
- Epistle (6)
- Inexpensive (5)
- Freshly (4)

#### Down

- Play (5)
- Tableland (7)
- Upside-down (7)
- Weary (5)
- Charming (10)
- Disparity (10)
- Loop (5)
- Pedagogue (7)
- Exhaust (7)
- Precise (5)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS &gt;

6	4	8	1	5	3	7	2	9
3	7	5	2	9	8	6	4	1
1	9	2	6	7	4	5	8	3
7	3	4	9	1	6	8	5	2
9	8	6	5	4	2	1	3	7
2	5	1	8	3	7	9	6	4
8	2	9	4	6	1	3	7	5
4	1	3	7	8	5	2	9	6
5	6	7	3	2	9	4	1	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Take sides; 8 Man; 9 Come to a stop; 11 Parapet; 12 Hydra; 13 Others; 15 Plumbs; 17 Hunts; 18 Baronet; 20 Mountain ash; 22 Ire; 23 Dispenser. Down: 2 Add; 3 Sit up; 4 Drafts; 5 Satchel; 6 Impedimenta; 7 In transit; 10 Merchantmen; 11 Prophetic; 14 Resound; 16 Abates; 18 Raise; 21 See.  
QUICK - Across: 1 Ignoramus; 8 Eat; 9 Appointment; 11 Extreme; 12 Talon; 13 Cattle; 15 Sedate; 17 Short; 18 Convict; 20 Inheritance; 22 Van; 23 Treasurer. Down: 2 Gap; 3 Raise; 4 Matter; 5 Sheafshe; 6 Retaliation; 7 Stringent; 10 Partitioning; 11 Excessive; 14 Latchet; 16 Scarce; 19 Notes; 21 Cue.

# Star Reader Travel

Return coach travel from Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge\*

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Departing Saturday 18 November 2017

Quote Code: GYH395

### Price Includes...

- Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star hotel within 20 miles of central London with full English breakfast
- A Choir ticket (face value of £25) for Classical Spectacular on Saturday 18 November at the Royal Albert Hall (upgrades available at a supplement)
- Free time in London

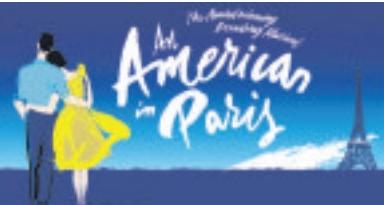
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\*Please note: Not all pick up points are available on all breaks.

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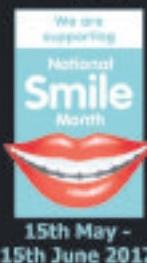


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## Your Chronicle

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15th May - 15th June 2017

## Simply Dentures

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Clinical Dental Technician  
Peter Brookes  
GDC No. 124429

Wearing dentures has been a challenge for Mike (left). The denture he had been given by his dentist was uncomfortable, he regularly used fixative and was unhappy with the appearance. Wanting to get a denture he was comfortable with and to meet his desired appearance was our aim.

We offer you the chance to see the Clinical Technician who actually makes your dentures. This gives you the confidence that you will get the smile you deserve. We take time to listen to your individual denture needs. Offering the latest bespoke treatments to create a plan that is right for you.

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For more information see... [www.simplydentures.net](http://www.simplydentures.net)

16-17 Roseville Precinct, Castle Street, Coseley, WV14 9EP

# Park and dine at Weston Grill

A friend runs a Shropshire restaurant. He's earned ratings from The Good Food Guide and AA for a menu that combines the best of seasonal flavour. He's busy, pays good salaries and, you'd expect, he'd have a queue of cooks waiting at the door asking for a job.

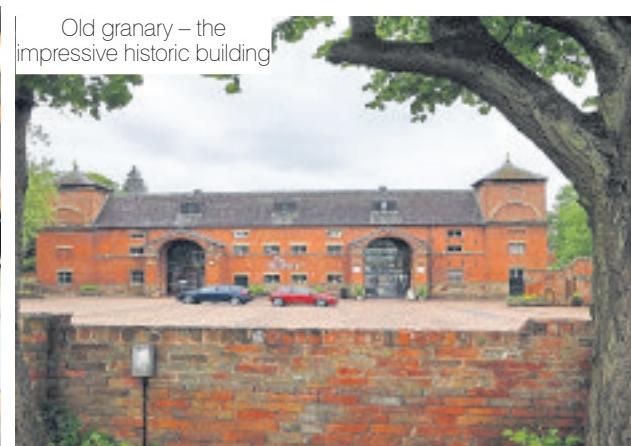
The opposite is true. Despite being in one of the county's best locations, despite having extraordinary suppliers and despite being one of the most charming employers in the county, the kitchen seems to have a revolving door. Chefs spin in and out at an alarming rate, wrongly imagining that grass is greener elsewhere.

He suffers from what I call the Fish and Chip Conundrum. His customers love fish and chips – but chefs think they're above such fripperies. They want to dazzle like Heston, rather than fry like The Codfather. Fools – the lot of them.

My friend reasons with them, encouraging them to make their version of the humble chip supper the best in the county. He exhorts them to cook with greater precision, to make sure their seasoning is pinpoint perfect, to create a batter that cracks and crunches with the sound of shattering glass and to triple cook their chips in the beef dripping of wagyu cattle, or something similar. . .

And yet time and again, his chefs give up the ghost because they want to create a pea espuma to serve with a black pepper and pineapple beignet alongside air-dried duck pastrami and spherified white balsamic. Or some such nonsense.

The Granary Grill, at Weston Park, went through a phase where its chefs wrongly imagined they were competing against the county's fine dining elite. And so, for a little while, chefs would over-complicate and



add in layers of needless detail when all the customers really wanted was a decent steak, a stunning burger, a banging plate of moules et frites or a luxurious prawn cocktail followed by a sautéed corn-fed chicken breast with garlic mash.

A few years on and the penny seems to have dropped. The Granary Grill menu 2017 is spot on, featuring a mix of tried and tested gastro pub classics – confit duck leg with lentils, twice-baked goat's cheese soufflé, a rib eye steak with hand cut chips – alongside a few dishes that are a little more exotic but do not

alienate. There are sides that all would recognise: hand cut chips, cider-battered onion rings, garlic mushrooms, béarnaise sauce and a salad et al. The age of chefs having ideas above their station is well and truly over and instead they appear to have adopted the maxim of my restaurateur friend – people love simple food, so make your version better than anyone else's.

For that's precisely what the Granary Grill does. During a midweek supper, my friend and I were dazzled by two courses that really oughtn't to have been anything special: a prawn cocktail and a humble burger.

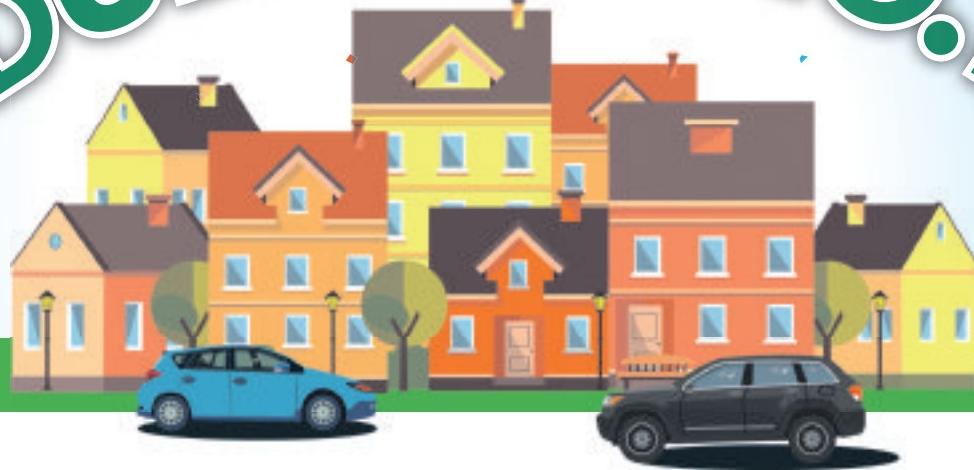
Both were memorable and stood out from the crowd – more of which later.

Weston Park seems to be on a mission to make eating out the easiest pursuit known to man. It's user-friendly website is easy to navigate, its online booking service the easiest in town – I booked online and within two hours we were sitting down to eat. Easy peasy lemon cheesey (cake).

Delight

The venue remains a delight. Located on the vast and ever-impressive Weston Park Estate, it's easy to reach,

## DUDLEY'S NO.1



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Dudley  
**CHRONICLE**

# PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY  
GUIDE TO HOME  
BUYING AND  
LETTING

## Spacious three-bed detached has lovely views

Enviable situated and with magnificent panoramic distant views, 31 Sunningdale Road, Northway, Sedgley, is a spacious extended three-double-bedroomed detached residence.

On a fine corner/wedge-shaped plot butting onto open fields, it is for sale through Taylors at £290,000.

The property has been comprehensively modernised by the current owners in very recent years, with the selling agents particularly emphasising its stunning 16'4" x 15'10" dining kitchen with an extensive range of units, the spacious 19'8" living/dining room with a substantial conservatory beyond, a re-appointed bathroom together with replacement UPVC double glazed windows, a new central heating boiler/radiators etc.

The front door opens to the reception hall with original wood block flooring, a staircase with a handrail to the first floor and panel effect doors and a re-appointed cloakroom/WC with laminate flooring off. The L-shaped through living room includes a dining room section to the front with original wood-strip flooring, opening through to the lounge section with French doors to the conservatory, a polished marble over mantle with a living flame feature gas fire.

The conservatory has extensive panoramic, blue-tinted roofing panels and laminate flooring. The magnificent dining kitchen is the 'hub of the house'.

Having panoramic distant views, it has an extensive range of 'high gloss cream' finish wall and base units incorporating an island section, black roll edge work surfaces, tiled splash-backs, a 'Belling' gas/electric range with an extractor hood above and an integrated dishwasher.

The former garage is now subdivided into a utility room and a store. Off the first floor landing with a pull down loft ladder, bedroom one includes two sets of free-standing wardrobes. Bedroom two also includes free-standing wardrobes and cupboards and there is a third double bedroom. The rear garden is in a large wedge shape, having 180-degree distant views, an extensive riven-faced slatted patio running the full width of the property and projecting into the garden with rope hand rail. There are also four established apple trees and a cherry tree and a garden shed.

**SEDGLEY £290,000**



### TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: **Taylors**

TEL: 01902 880888

EMAIL: [sedgley@taylors-estateagents.co.uk](mailto:sedgley@taylors-estateagents.co.uk)

### KEY FEATURES

- Extended detached residence
- 3 double bedrooms
- Panoramic distant views
- Spacious accommodation
- Fine corner/wedge-shaped plot



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the property professionals

Kingswinford  
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Brierley Hill  
01384 265265

Sedgley  
01902 880888

Also at Stourbridge and Halesowen



**TIPTON, Birmingham New Road**

Spacious, EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached family home in superb order throughout with many unspoilt character features/lofty ceiling etc. comprising; porch, hall, cloakroom, living room, dining room, extended/refitted 13'9" kitchen, utility room; three generous bedrooms, bathroom with white contemporary suite, gated drive, garage & superb LENGTHY rear garden. EPC:TBC. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £235,000



**BILSTON, Overfield Drive , Sedgmoor Park**

Spacious gas centrally heated & double glazed detached secluded from the road on favoured section of development comprising porch, hall, store, lounge, dining room, CONSERVATORY, kitchen, utility room, fitted cloaks. Three bedrooms (principal bedroom with wardrobes & shower room en suite), bathroom, garage, expertly tended garden - further potential. MINING SEARCH AVAILABLE. EPC: D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £210,000



**WALL HEATH, Beachcroft Road**

An EXTENDED SEMI DETACHED HOUSE well placed, offering a GENEROUS layout of accommodation which includes THREE GOOD SIZE BEDROOMS. The property is set back beyond the broad frontage which includes the LARGE DRIVEWAY, 27 FT GARAGE and a pleasant rear garden. EPC D

No upward chain

£199,950



**KINGSWINFORD, Winford Avenue**

● Open Viewing Sat 10th June 10am - 4pm ● Enjoying spectacular elevated views, this IMPRESSIVE THREE BEDROOM DETACHED FAMILY HOME is superbly located and offers a GENEROUS layout, all of which is WELL PRESENTED throughout. With DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and a private/ sunny rear garden. EPC D

Open day

£199,950



**KINGSWINFORD, Moss Grove**

A BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED LINK DETACHED FAMILY HOME with a VERY LARGE DRIVEWAY and GARAGE, offering a WELL APPOINTED layout with Large full depth Lounge with Dining Area, Re fitted Kitchen with appliances, Utility/ Laundry, THREE BEDROOMS and Shower Room. EPC E

No upward chain

£194,950



**SEDGLEY, Langland Drive**

ENLARGED, Freehold gas centrally heated double glazed link-detached family home enjoying distant views from the front and within walking distance of so many amenities comprising; entrance vestibule, lounge and dining room section (with French doors out to garden) extended 15'6" kitchen, understair store, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage, neat/ secluded garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £189,000



**COSELEY, Cedar Avenue, Bramford estate**

SIGNIFICANTLY EXTENDED - gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed semi-detached presented in exemplary order throughout comprising; porch, reception hall, store, 25ft through lounge/dining room, extended breakfast kitchen, rear lobby/utility room, 'office'; three bedrooms (one with wardrobes), bathroom with white contemporary styled suite. Large Garage, rear garden, block paved parking to front. EPC Rating C SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £180,000



**WORDSLEY, Bells Lane**

Commanding a fantastic corner position, this SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME is close to Village shops/ schools, offering a SPACIOUS layout with THREE GOOD BEDROOMS and GENEROUS REAR/ SIDE GARDEN providing much potential to extend (subject to consent) EPC D

No upward chain

£165,000



**SEDGLEY, Bath Street**

EXTENDED, modernised & improved (finishing works would be beneficial) gas centrally heated double glazed semi-detached comprising; porch, hall (wood strip floor), understair fitted cloaks, dining room, enlarged living room (with multi fuel stove and French doors to garden), extended kitchen, lobby, three bedrooms, bathroom, boarded roof space with sky lights, garage, garden. EPC E. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £163,500

**Kingswinford**  
01384 401777

**Brierley Hill**  
01384 265265

**Sedgley**  
01902 880888

Also at **Stourbridge** and **Halesowen**



**DUDLEY, Yarner Close, Milking Bank**

Situated in short cul-de-sac just off Sovereign Drive; a SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated, double glazed, much improved, detached family home comprising; porch, hallway, lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen (with various integrated appliances), pantry, refitted utility room, cloakroom. Principal bedroom with shower room en suite, three further bedrooms (one with a fine range of Sharpe's fitted units), bathroom with white contemporary style suite. Garage, gardens, EPC: D SEDGLEY

New price

WAS £289,950, NOW £279,950



**GORNAL WOOD, Woodland Grove**

ENVIABLY SITUATED in cul-de-sac just off Brick Kiln Lane, a tremendously enhanced, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached with DOUBLE GARAGE and delightful garden comprising; hallway, enlarged L-shaped lounge, dining room, kitchen, pantry, magnificent garden-room (with lantern roof), utility room, cloakroom. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Extensive block paved parking/driveway, Double garage, superb garden. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £227,000



**COSEYNE, Denise Drive**

ENLARGED & IMPROVED, detached family home in exemplary order throughout. Stunning accommodation includes; porch, reception hall, reappointed cloaks, upgraded kitchen, transverse living room, separate dining room, and uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY beyond. Three generous bedrooms, third bedroom with loft ladder up to boarded roof space with sky lights. Reappointed bathroom, Garage, landscaped gardens. EPC: C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £168,995



**WORDSLEY, Watery Lane**

Enjoying a LARGE BEAUTIFULLY LANDSCAPED SECLUDED REAR GARDEN and side GARAGE, this IMPRESSIVE TRADITIONAL 1930s END TOWNHOUSE is superbly placed and includes a ground floor WC, two large reception rooms and THREE BEDROOMS. EPC F

£154,950

No upward chain

£139,950

£135,000

Offers in the region of £125,000

PRICE: £124,250



**HOLLY HALL, Buxton Road**

This RATHER SUBSTANTIAL and MOST APPEALING, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises; Hall, Lovely Through Lounge, Well Fitted Breakfast Kitchen, Guests Cloakroom, THREE LARGE FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, Family Shower Room and Fantastic Rear Garden! EPC: C

£120,000

Offers in the region of £115,000

No upward chain

£99,950

£99,950

£99,950



**SEDGLEY, Kings Road**

SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL. A traditional, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) intermediate terrace for improvement set in favoured district convenient for the many amenities around Sedgley's Bull Ring comprising; living room, lobby, store, dining room, kitchen, bathroom. Two double bedrooms, further box room. Delightful rear garden. EPC: E. All offers to be received by the Executors' consideration by MIDDAY MONDAY 12TH JUNE 2017. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £95,000

Offers in the region of £94,950

New price WAS £95,000, NOW £93,000

Offers in the region of £79,950

£79,950



## Landlords Forum



Thursday 15th June 2017, 6.30pm  
Cannock Chase Council, Civic Centre,  
Beecroft Road, Cannock WS11 1BG

If you are a Landlord with property to rent in the Cannock Chase Area, why not attend the next meeting of the Landlord Forum?

Guest Speakers for the evening are:

**Wolf Enforcement Services Ltd**

Recovering Rent Arrears and Property for Landlords

**Fixed Fee Tax Return - Accountancy Services**

Specialist advice in completion of self assessment returns and tax affairs for landlords

**Don Robbie - West Midlands Representative**

National Landlords Association (NLA)

General update on changes affecting the private sector

**David Willmore - Benefits Services and Compliance Manager**

Update on Welfare Benefit Reform

For more information contact

Julie Cope/Dee Kalirai tel: 01543 462621

Housing Options Team, Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock, WS11 1BG

email: [housingoptions@cannockchasedc.gov.uk](mailto:housingoptions@cannockchasedc.gov.uk)

[www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk](http://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk)



**Individual detached in a popular location**

**KINGSWINFORD**

£264,950

<<<

A highly individual detached home in Moss Grove, Kingswinford, lies in a sought-after centre village location, close to popular schools and shops.

Having three bedrooms and two reception rooms, it is for sale through Taylors at £264,950 with no chain.

It also has a front/side driveway, a sectional garage and a beautifully laid out 100 ft long rear garden.

With gas central heating and double glazing, it's located within the heart of Kingswinford village.

It has a very well proportioned layout of attractively presented accommodation which a reception hall with a guest cloakroom/WC off, a large attractive lounge, a separate formal dining room, a fitted kitchen, three good bedrooms and a bathroom.

Call 01384 401777.

# K. Stuart Swash

## AUCTION - 20TH JUNE 2017



### 9 HOPSTONE GARDENS, PENN.

Quiet cul de sac location. Extended and spacious accommodation, CH., DG., Hall, Cloakroom, 24ft. Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Pantry, fitted Cloaks, Utility, Four Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage, lovely Rear Garden - open outlook beyond. EPC: D.57

**Guide: £230,000 - £235,000**

VIEWING:

FRIDAY & SATURDAY,  
9th & 10th JUNE @ 10.30 a.m.



### 36C RICHES STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON

Spacious, Two Reception, Three Bed Semi with Two Bedroomed Garden Annex and large Outbuilding, double gated entrance driveway. EPC: TBA

**Guide: £115,000 - £120,000**

VIEWING:

FRIDAY & SATURDAY,  
9th & 10th JUNE @ 10.30 a.m.



### 63 PARK ROAD EAST, WOLVERHAMPTON

Ripe for refurbishment. Excellent corner position. Outlook to West Park  
Two Reception, Three Beds, Garage Space. EPC: TBA

**Guide: £69,000 - £74,000**

VIEWING:

FRIDAY & SATURDAY,  
9th & 10th JUNE @ 9.30 a.m.



### 13 PEACOCK AVENUE, WEDNESFIELD

Well located for schooling and amenities. Spacious Semi, Double Glazing  
Porch, Two Reception, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, attractive Gardens. EPC: E.52

**Guide: £85,000 - £95,000**

VIEWING:

FRIDAY & SATURDAY,  
9th & 10th JUNE @ 11.30 a.m.



### 9 & 9A CROSS STREET, BRIDGTOWN, CANNOCK

Excellent conversion into Two 2-Bed Flats  
Smart Kitchens & Bathrooms, Gas CH, Yard area and Parking., EPC: C.70 + D.68

**Guide: £128,000 - £135,000**

VIEWING:

FRIDAY & SATURDAY,  
9th & 10th JUNE @ 10.00 a.m.



### PADDOCK OF FREEHOLD LAND R/O Nos. 94 & 95 COVEN ROAD, BREWOOD

Well located enclosed Paddock est. 0.5 acre approx. with Planning Permission for erection of Stable Block. Mains Services available.

**Guide: £49,000 - £54,000**

VIEWING:

FRIDAY & SATURDAY,  
9th & 10th JUNE @ 11.45 a.m.



### 21 CANTERBURY ROAD, PENN

Within an established residential area. Entrance drive, Porch, Hall, Two Reception, Kitchen, Pantry, g/f WC, Three Bedrooms, Shower Room, WC, Garage, Rear Terrace, Garden approx. 120ft in depth. EPC: D.56

**Guide: £165,000 - £175,000**

VIEWING:

FRIDAY & SATURDAY,  
9th & 10th JUNE @ 11.30 a.m.

### PLEASE NOTE:

Viewing of all Lots at own risk. Viewings are at the times specified so, should you arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the time schedule.



## Terraced an ideal first time buy or investment

**LOWER GORNAL**  
£95,000 <<<

An ideal first time buy or of interest to an investor, this two-bedroomed terrace house in Bird Street, Lower Gornal, Dudley is for sale through Wakeman at £95,000 with no chain.

A well proportioned two bedroom mid terraced house close to Gornal Wood village centre, it has a living room, lobby, dining kitchen, a landing, two bedrooms, a bathroom and gardens.

This property has been subject to some modernisation and improvement, but is now in need of some further upgrading.

It is only a short walk from a wide range of amenities and is within easy commuting distance of most major West Midlands commercial centres, as well as being close to open greenbelt countryside.

Contact Wakeman on 01384 459999 or visit [www.wakeman-online.com](http://www.wakeman-online.com)



## Spacious bungalow on large corner plot

**HALESOWEN**  
£325,000

The Drive in Halesowen is a generously-proportioned detached bungalow situated on a large corner plot of approximately quarter of acre with gated driveway.

It is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £325,000.

Conveniently located close to Halesowen town centre and transport links, it has a fully fitted kitchen, a large utility, a guest WC, two reception rooms, three spacious bedrooms, a bathroom and gas central heating, double glazing where specified.

The lower floor has a large garage and two workshops and there are large gardens, a driveway and garage.

Call 0121 585 6667 for more information or to book that all important viewing to see if this is the house for you.

### PREFERRED AND CHOSEN



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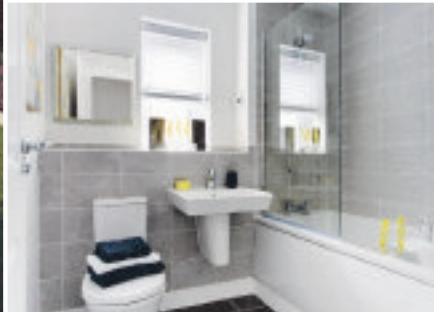
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off Dudley Street, Bilston, Wolverhampton WV14 0JT

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PLOT ONE 'THE ORCHARD', KETTLES BANK ROAD GORNAL WOOD £242,000



•New build detached house  
•Part of a small development  
•Spacious three bedroom accommodation  
•Landscaped gardens with parking  
•Integrated roof solar panels generating free electricity  
•Built by Ling Homes Ltd with 10 year structural warranty  
•EPC RATINGS TBC

HELP TO BUY AVAILABLE

'KURNA' HIMLEY AVENUE, DUDLEY £235,000




NO UPWARD CHAIN

•Individual detached house on a corner plot  
•Well maintained, spacious three bedroom accommodation  
•Two reception rooms, conservatory & downstairs w.c.  
•Large and attractive rear garden with south facing views  
•EPC RATING D

7 REDWOOD AVENUE £129,995



NO UPWARD CHAIN  
MINING REPORT AVAILABLE

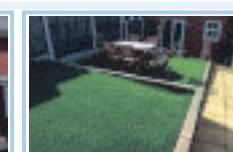
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Motability is available to people who have a wide range of physical or cognitive disabilities and receive the higher rate mobility component of the DLA, or the enhanced rate Mobility component of PIP. It may be that it's physically difficult to get out

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#### What's included?



Our Motability Specialists (from left to right): Tony Lister (Dudley Motor Company), Jon Blacker (Halesowen Motor House), Paul Jones (Stourbridge Motor House). Simon Green (T. Wall Vauxhall).

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\*Motability information is official government environmental data tested in accordance with the relevant EU directive. Official EU-regulated test data is required for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Vehicles shown for illustrative purposes only and may not fitted with optional equipment. Brilliant paint, metallic or pearl-effect two-coat paint and parking distance sensors included with each lease. Tri-coat premium paint available at extra cost. The facilities offered are for the hire (bailement) of goods. The Motability Contract Hire Scheme is administered by Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 9HQ. Offer valid 1 April – 30 June 2017. To qualify you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance, the Enhanced Rate Mobility Component of the Personal Independence Payment or the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement or the Armed Forces Independence Payment which will be taken in lieu of the four weekly rental payments. Full details, including terms and conditions, are available on request. Vauxhall OnStar is a free trial period included within the price of the vehicle for 36 months excluding WiFi Hotspot services. WiFi Hotspot Services are provided on a free trial basis for 3 months or 3GB by the nominated mobile network operator and subject to separate terms and conditions AG subject to mobile network coverage availability. Charges apply after each free trial period. Check www.vauxhall.co.uk/onstar for details of availability, coverage and charges or ask your Vauxhall Retailer. Vehicles purchased without OnStar cannot have the required technology retro-fitted.

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From now the Škoda Superb and Škoda Superb Estate will be rolled out with numerous innovations. These includes automatic emergency call as additional security – and comfort features, and extended connectivity solutions.

● Care Connect with automatic emergency call. With the new model year, the Superb saloon and estate come with Care Connect as standard from Ambition trim upwards – regardless of the choice of infotainment system.

The most important feature of the Care Connect is the automatic emergency call, which is activated following an accident if a restraint system has been triggered. The vehicle establishes a voice and data connection to an emergency call centre and transmits all the necessary data. The emergency call can also be initiated manually via a button in the roof module.

In addition, remote access to the vehicle is now possible via the Škoda Connect App. The smartphone can inform the driver, among other things, whether the windows and doors are closed or the lights are off. The parking position function shows the location of the vehicle, the "Honk & Flash" function makes it easier to find the car by activating the horn and hazard lights.



Chrome strips are now available

● Infotainment: 9.2" screen in the glass design and SmartLink+. Numerous functions can now be operated with optimised infotainment systems for the Superb. The display of the Columbus navigation system has grown from 8 to 9.2 inches and the system Swing from 5 to 6.5 inches. In addition, the glass design enhances the high-resolution displays.

With the SmartLink+ system on board, the Superb now offers additional possibilities for networking between the vehicle and smartphone. SmartLink+ brings navigation, infotainment and communication apps from the mobile phone into the car and also provides vehicle data for the evaluation on the smartphone.

● Driver assistance systems: Park Distance Control. The Superb helps to avoid dents while parking, which is ensured by the Park Distance Control system with extended function Manoeuvre Assist – this now also detects obstacles in front of the vehicle. The system not only warns the driver with optical and acoustic signals but also brakes the vehicle automatically if necessary.

● Driver's seat with a massage function, improved communication climate and noise level. As a comfortable travelling vehicle for the whole family, the character of the car has been further strengthened with new equipment features. The optional massage function for the driver's seat, which is available with the electrically adjustable variant, including ventilation and memory function, ensures increased comfort on long distances. Also the communication among occupants is improved with Digital Voice Enhancement, which transmits the driver's and front passenger's voice to the passengers in the rear via a microphone in the cockpit. Additional improvements also contribute to lower noise levels – the front side windows are newly available with an acoustic film between the two glass surfaces.

● Design. The new design of the 19-inch light-alloy Acamar rims underscores the elegant appearance of the top model. In addition, the revised Superb can be ordered later this year in a new elegant car body metallic colour Velvet Red.

Chrome strips on side buffers and doors and a black interior ceiling will be available for the L&K equipment version making the refined top version of Škoda's flagships even more impressive.

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# Renault breathes new life into Captur

By Jack Evans

The Captur was Europe's best-selling urban crossover in 2016 with 215,670 units sold, which makes it a crucial model for Renault. As such, the French manufacturer has breathed new life into the distinctive-looking car to further increase its appeal, adding touches such as LED running lights and a wider choice of alloy wheels, as well as new skid plates to highlight its 'go anywhere' looks.

Overall, the changes are subtle but bring the car's looks closer into line with those of the current Kadjar and upcoming Koleos. However, you'll find no changes to the engine line-up here, with the familiar 1.2-litre petrol and 1.5-litre diesel units making up the range.

The current crop of crossovers are quirky-looking vehicles, and the Captur is no different. You'll have to look closely to notice the difference between this latest car and the one it replaces, but try hard and you'll notice C-shaped LED daytime running lights at the front and updated LED light units at the rear. As previously mentioned, new skidplates now feature at the front and back of the Captur, and there's a great variety of colours to pick from, too.

Inside, the changes are similarly subtle. A fixed glass sunroof is now available on cars in Dynamique S trim levels and above, while higher-quality plastics have been used on larger areas such as the dashboard. Top-end spec cars get a leather-trimmed steering wheel, too. These changes do make the difference, as the cabin feels distinctly more premium than that found in the previous generation – but the effect is not what we'd call groundbreaking.

The Captur remains an impressively spacious car. The front seats offer plenty



At the rear there are updated LED lights

of shoulder room, while those in the back are equally well catered for. Thanks to large windows, it also feels quite airy, though darker coloured upholstery does somewhat go against this.

There's 377 litres of boot space, and this is aided by plenty of in-car storage too. Deep door bins are ideal for water bottles, while cupholders in the centre of the car's cabin are equally as useful.

The Captur delivers a surprisingly involving drive. The 1.2-litre petrol engine fitted to our test car was nippy and ideal for urban driving, but you need to work the gearbox to make consistent progress. However, that gearbox doesn't have the most pleasant of actions, and lacks the accuracy that you'll find in competitors' boxes. The ride isn't too firm, and deals with lumps and bumps in the road well.

The Captur's steering is very light, but this makes it well suited to urban driving as it allows for quick changes of direction and immediate turns.

Our test car came in at £19,095 and featured a full infotainment system, air conditioning



There are C-shaped LED daytime running lights at the front

and a multifunction steering wheel. The car's interior plastics have been heavily reworked, and because of this feel far more high-end than those found in the previous car. That said, those materials lower down the cabin aren't as good, and are now more noticeable because of the soft-touch plastics used on

the dashboard. The infotainment system lacks the precision that is found in rival systems, and the satellite navigation can be slow to adjust. However, the Bose stereo fitted to our car was impressive, and produced a premium sound.

The Captur is ideal for those people who want economical, low-frills motoring at a

competitive price. This facelift has been a rather light one, but the changes that have been made only help to add to the Captur's appeal. However, it has a tough fight on its hands to deal with competition from the likes of the Toyota CH-R or Citroen C4 Cactus. Emissions: 125g/km

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# Classified Ads



**Local Specialists**  
Our Specialist Section offers you a wide range of local businesses and tradesmen to deal with your needs and requirements.

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No Job too Small, No Job too Big**

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- ✓ Slating
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Independent family run Funeral Directors 24 hour service  
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## lost & found

### LOST CAT

White with faint reddish markings, missing from Woodbridge Drive, Wombourne since 3pm, May 25.  
Reward: 07486 044684.

LOST - Black cat, neutered male, lost since May 25 in Merry Hill area of Wolverhampton. 01902 650256.

1 Family

## elderly & disabled

MEGA-LITE DISABILITY scooter, lights and indicators, recent batteries, £375 o.n.o. 01902 725762.

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Superb four wheeled scooter in excellent condition. Easily fits in a car boot. Can deliver £295 07905 770683

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2 Leisure Time

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ASHWOOD CAR BOOT Sundays from Barnsley by Robert Farm Shop on A449, DY6 0AA 07710 644908. [www.ashwoodcarboot.co.uk](http://www.ashwoodcarboot.co.uk)

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**SATURDAY BOOT SALE\***  
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## caravans / motorhomes

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AVONDALE 470/2 DART 2008. 2 berth. MTPLM only 1120kg. Very good condition. Large shower room. Motor mover. Replaced tyres. Awning. Extras. Retiring from caravaning. £4,500 o.n.o. 01902 333789.

BK CONTESSA Bluebird, 2003, Static, 26ft x 12ft Caravan.

2 bedroom, 6-berth, sighted near to the river in Worcester.

Very good condition. £8,250 ovno. 07583 629907.

CARAVAN WANTED Can collect asap. Caravan wanted. Call me on 07717 090817.

LET US SELL YOUR CARAVAN/ Motorhome for you and get the best possible price. Severn Valley Leisure, DY8 4PH. 01384 390183

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BK CONTESSA Bluebird, 2003, Static, 26ft x 12ft Caravan.

2 bedroom, 6-berth, sighted near to the river in Worcester.

Very good condition. £8,250 ovno. 07583 629907.

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3 grand circle front row seats. £36.50 each. 07843 330185.

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CARAVAN CH. DG.

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CROWN REGENT, 1999. 5 berth, fridge, oven, hot water, toilet, shower, fire, blinds. Including awning. Excellent condition, £2,400 o.n.o. 07752 888960.

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Free Quotes. Call: 01902 561434 or 07792 817062.

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Call Sean 01902 829158 8am to 8pm

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**NOTICE TO READERS**

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**6 Property**

**overseas property**

NOTICE TO READ

# 42 Classified Ads

## 8 Motoring

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07 plate,  
red,  
3Dr, 1.25,  
full MoT,  
lady owner from new,  
28k miles.  
£2,750.  
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immaculate condition.

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new discs and pads, MoT  
October, HPI clear, clean car.  
£1,995.

Telephone 07546 779139.  
or van or large 4 x 4 in  
exchange.



09 reg, 81k, 1400cc, petrol,  
metallic grey, one lady owner,  
FSH, USB, Aux, Bluetooth, Hill  
assist, Stop/Start, 6 speed, 10m  
MOT

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07878 239301.

### MUST BE SEEN

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2011, 45,000 miles, book pack.  
MoT April 4, 2018.  
Very clean.  
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Two owners from new.  
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Full MOT. Alloys.  
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£1,995.  
07376 727285.

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55,000 miles,  
AC, alloy wheels,  
EW, 2 lady owners,  
immaculate,  
economical.  
£3,495 o.n.o.  
07754 557861.

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**TOYOTA AGO**  
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lots of MoT,  
£20 tax per year,  
excellent condition.  
£1,595  
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**TOYOTA YARIS 1.3**  
2005, 5dr hatchback, 2 lady  
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**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 DESIGN**  
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### public & legal notices

Licensing Act 2003  
**NOTICE OF APPLICATION  
FOR PREMISES LICENCE**

An application for a new premises licence has been made by HC Hotel Operations Limited, to South Staffordshire District Council, regarding the premises to be known as Hinton Country Hotel, 22 School Road, Hinton, Dudley, Staffordshire, DY3 4LG.

The application is as follows:

1. To enable the retail sale of alcohol for consumption on and off the premises, every day of the year, Monday to Sunday 0700-0100 hours.

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3. Late Night Refreshment every day of the year, Monday to Sunday 2300-0500 hours.

4. Premises open to the public every day of the year, Monday to Sunday 0000-2359 hours.

Any representation by responsible authorities or any other person regarding this application should be written to the Licensing Officer, South Staffordshire District Council, Council House, Wixham Road, Codsall, Staffordshire, WV8 1PX by the 30th June 2017.

Persons wishing to view the application may do so by contacting the licensing unit on 01902 692500; email: licensing@south-staffs.gov.uk

It is an offence to fix up to level 5 (£5,000) on the standard scale to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with the application.

Dated: 2nd June 2017

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# Fundraisers saddle up to help hospice

AROUND a dozen people are saddling up to raise money for Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge next week. Cyclists from across the country will converge on Wolverhampton, for the start of a one-day, 106-mile charity ride from the city out to Aberdovey, Wales.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the annual at the annual Aberdovey Cycling Challenge and the number taking part on behalf of the hospice is the biggest representation the charity has ever had.

As well as the popular one-day event next Friday (June 16), there is also a four-day challenge, beginning on Tuesday (13) which takes cyclists on a route covering more than 400 miles from Wolverhampton to Aberdovey, via Snowdonia. The hospice will have a team representing them in this challenge, who go under the collective name of Team Fablass 5.

Charlotte Schofield, head of fundraising at Mary Stevens Hospice, said: "We're so grateful to our supporters for dedicating so much time and effort to help support us through this event."

"I want to pay special mention to the team taking on the four-day challenge. We're so privileged that they would choose to do something like this for us."



Pelsall Villa FC v Newlands FC of Heath Hayes



Harrison Boswell, with Thomas Birch, gets his boot signed

# Boxer Paz to address fans at sports bar

BOXING fans can meet legend of the sport Vinny Paz in Cannock later this month.

Formerly known as Vinny Pazienza, the five-time lightweight and middleweight champion of the world is the inspiration for the 2016 hit film Bleed For This, which is based on his comeback from a spinal injury.

The American fighter, aged 54, appears at Bar Sport's Premier Suite, in High Green, for an after-dinner speech and question and answer session on Wednesday, June 21.

Tickets start from £45 with VIP packages available. A five-course meal will be served, plus there will be entertainment from a comedian and a memorabilia auction.

'Paz' will also be available for photographs with fans.

Doors open at 7pm. Call the ticket hotline on 01543 572092 or email info@premier-suite.co.uk for more details.

He will be the latest in a long line of big name boxers to have appeared at the venue in recent years. Others include Evander Holyfield, Chris Eubank, Sugar Ray Leonard, Roberto Duran, Nigel Benn, Carl Froch, Carl Frampton and Joe Calzaghe.

# Frustration as injury rules Woakes out

GREAT Barr's Chris Woakes has spoken of his frustration after he was ruled out of the Champions Trophy with a side strain.

The 28-year-old Warwickshire all-rounder sustained the injury during his two-over spell in England's opening eight-wicket win over Bangladesh at The Oval last Thursday.

The England and Wales Cricket Board confirmed the following morning that the key seamer would play no further part in the tournament.

"It's really frustrating," said Woakes, who has been replaced by Steven Finn. "It's a tough one to take, right at the start of a tournament which we have been building up to as a team for a while."

"I finished two overs but it was probably on the third or fourth ball of the second over that it felt like something had become tight in my side," Woakes added. "I managed to finish the over but by the last ball I knew that something really wasn't right. To a certain extent, it felt like someone was sticking a knife in my side."

Woakes now faces a race against time to be fit for the Test series against South Africa, which begins at Lord's on July 6.

# McAuley bags kick-off role at tournament

## SPORTING FEATURE

By Lewis Cox

*"I think the success has been very good and it will spur us on into next year to see how we can improve and grow it."*

WEDNESBURY Cricket Club swapped stumps for goalposts to help a new Black Country football tournament get up and running.

The Fourbury Mini Soccer Tournament – named after co-organisers Four Oaks Football Club and Wednesbury Cricket Club – attracted more than 300 youngsters from all over the region with Albion star Gareth McAuley kicking off proceedings.

After taking on the lease at Wood Green Road as the former sports union disbanded, Wednesbury have been keen to attract more grassroots sports action.

And Wednesbury CC chairman Craig Cartwright declared the event a huge success.

"For the first one we've hosted it was absolutely more successful than we could've hoped," he said. "You learn from your first events and tweak things for the future but we're already planning for more events."

### Weather

"It was brilliant that the facility was being used and everyone was enjoying themselves. We want to thank the council for helping us, including Elaine Costigan and Peter Hughes who have been great."

"We want it used by as many people as possible. The weather definitely helped the event but I think everybody would've turned up to play in the rain."

Around 40 teams competed across the under-six and under-seven age groups and Four Oaks, based in Sutton Coldfield and with more than half of their 21 teams featuring in the Walsall League, hailed their host's input.

"A venue like this is very much lacking in Sutton Coldfield and we were very pleased with the spread of teams. It shows the draw that football has," said Scott Ratcliffe, chairman of Four Oaks. "You had Black

Country teams and teams from as far afield as Northfield and also Atherstone. I think the success has been very good and it will spur us on into next year to see how we can improve and grow it."

The chairman reserved praise for the standard of the Walsall League, which carries teams from under-seven through to under-18s.

He added "We've fielded 12 teams in the Walsall League and I would say that the organisation and competitiveness has been absolutely A1. I think the league have to get a pat on the back for everything."

"They've made it not just enjoyable, but easy for people to manage teams, turn up and play football. They've chosen great venues and have done a fantastic job."

Solihull's Olton Ravens won a 3-2 thriller against Cannock side FC Newlands in the under-sevens, while Newlands took home the under-six title, beating Oldbury outfit Brandhall Colts in the final.

Albion ace McAuley, whose seven-year-old son Bobby plays for Four Oaks in the Walsall League, joined hundred of parents and families cheering from the sides. He said: "When I was starting out it was only the school team and then county team. A lot of grassroots was missed out."



Max Bailey, aged seven, of Cannock team FC Newlands



FC Premier shoot against West Bromwich side Bustleholme

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# Sport

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Write on! Baggies' Mac kicks off tournament

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## Skipper left stranded in second loss

STOURBRIDGE will be ruing not sustaining the pressure on Worcester Nomads' batsmen after containing the run rate to two runs an over in the first 20 overs, and failing to reach a modest target of four runs per over for victory.

Losing two matches on the trot, Stourbridge fell to fifth in division three of the Birmingham and District League.

Wining the toss Stour skipper Josh Banks decided to field first. His bowlers did him proud as Worcester could only muster up 100-3 off 37 overs.

But then Ollie Ranscombe (72 off 63 balls) and Richard Henry (52 off 54 balls) changed the course of the game, by doubling the run rate and they ended on 227-4.

Stour's reply was marred by the loss of five wickets by the 18th over with just 100 runs on the board.

The wickets of opener Harshad Patel (20) and Richard Bradley (0) fell with the score of 48. Richard Henry accounted for the other opener Alex Bingham (6), Jujhar Johal (5) and Zain Ul Hassan (10).

A captain's innings of 73 not out from Banks offered a lifeline, supported by Matt Bradley (16) and Jade Richter (26).

The final wicket partnership between Banks and Dominic O'Reilly of 29 made the chase an interesting watch. O'Reilly was caught off Cameron Blakey for 13 with Stour still requiring 39 off 24 deliveries, but Banks was left stranded as Stour closed on 188. Stour host Newport on Saturday, starting at noon. Stourbridge 3rd XI top their division with five wins and a drawn match.

In the Birmingham League division one, Himley climbed up to fifth with victory at Barnards Green. Adam Finch (3-32) and Stuart Wedge (3-33) polished off Barnards Green for 154 before Tom Kohler-Cadmore (56) and Chris Bouroughs (41no) steered Himley to an eight-wicket victory.

## Pears legends to take field as club marks 175th year

A HOST of Worcestershire cricket legends will take on Stourbridge next month as the High Street club marks its 175th anniversary.

The likes of Richard Stemp, Gareth Andrew, Martin Weston and Paul Priddington will line up for the Legends XI on July 5 from 1.30pm. In the evening, a Stourbridge Representative XI will take on Worcestershire 1st XI in a T20 clash.

On July 7, current Stourbridge players will take on Stourbridge legends of the 1980s to complete an historic week.

Celebrations will kick off with Stourbridge taking on the MCC on Tuesday, July 4 in a one-day match from 11.30am.

Stourbridge chairman Harilal Jivan-Patel said: "We are very grateful to Mark Asbourne who has organised the cricket week. Our players are looking forward to taking part in this unique event to mark club's 175th anniversary."

Entry to the Wednesday games is £5 for adults, £2 for eight-to-18-year-olds.

A two-course meal will be available on request at £25 per person from 12.30pm to 2.30pm. To book the meal call Liz on 07870 963676.

## King of track relives days with Heathens



Lance King in action for Cradley Heathens

LANCE King, a firm favourite with Heathens fans during three glittering seasons with the club, will be special guest at Halesowen Cricket Club on Thursday, June 29 – two days before leading the USA into World Cup action at King's Lynn.

King was part of the all-conquering 1983 Cradley side and finished third in the world a year later when Dudley Wood hero Erik Gundersen took top spot. He will answer questions about his time at the club as well as the rest of his career along with previewing the World Cup campaign.

Said King: "This is something I've been looking to do for some time, it's well over 30 years since

### Speedway

I last met up with Cradley fans and I can't wait. The Cradley fans were and still are No.1 in my book and the support and following was amazing for the whole team."

The news follows the announcement of four-time World Champion Greg Hancock coming to the Cleveland Arms, Wolverhampton, on July 20. Tickets for both events will be on sale from the Cradley track shop, Printworx in Cradley Heath market area, from tomorrow (Friday) or online at sportstakevents.co.uk via paypal.

## Ace Bardsley nets success at the treble

STOURBRIDGE teenager Charlotte Bardsley is proving to be a table tennis smash after landing three national titles and impressing for England.

The 14-year-old, who attends Heathfield School in Kidderminster, won the Cadet singles, doubles and team events at the Cadet & Junior National Championships – and also took a Junior mixed doubles silver and singles bronze.

Heathfield School pupil Bardsley started by winning the team event with Burton Uxbridge, alongside Megan Gidney and Mollie Patterson, by defeating Ackworth School 3-2 in the final, with all three players winning one match each. She and Gidney then lived up to billing as top seeds in the girls' doubles by defeating Alice Dillon and Darcie Proud 3-0 in the final.

The partners became opponents in the singles final and top seed Bardsley made it a treble on the day by winning 4-0 (12-10, 11-7, 11-5, 12-10).

Bardsley said: "Megan's a really great doubles partner, we have great chemistry, so it was hard to play the final against her. She's a good friend but I managed to win it.

"We won the team event last year so it's good to reclaim the title. Megan really sealed the win and Mollie's win was crucial, so it was a good team effort."

After her success on home soil, Bardsley headed to Europe and reached the quarter-finals of both the Cadet Girls' Singles and Doubles at the Spanish Junior & Cadet Open, in Platja d'Aro.

## Hathaway first for BCT in Bala event

BALA Middle Distance Tri is a traditional favourite of Black Country Triathletes and on Sunday, Dave Hathaway was first home for the club in an excellent 5:10:20, finishing fourth in the M50 category.

It involves a 2km lake swim, an 80km ride followed by a 20km run.

In his first ever triathlon, Tom Cowdale came home in a fabulous 5:40.

Gary Hickman finished his first open water swim event in Blenheim, the Sprint Triathlon – a 750m swim, 20km bike and 5km run – in 1:24:44. Ben Monkton did the Deva standard distance triathlon in Chester, a 1500m swim, 40km bike and a 10km run, in 2:16:55.

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Thursday, June 8, 2017

# THREE SIGN ON FOR GLASSBOYS

STOURBRIDGE FC boss Gary Hackett has recruited three new signings as preparations intensify for the new football season.

The Glassboys have swooped for 24-year-old central midfielder Aaron Forde who arrives from league rivals Rushall Olympic.

Forde was previously in the youth ranks at Walsall and since his release in 2011, he has seen service with the likes of Stratford Town, Halesowen Town and Sutton Coldfield Town before spending one season at Rushall. He is seen as a strong, combative player who is comfortable on the ball and a good organiser.

Hackett's second new signing is 21-year-old left-back Bobby Moseley, who has represented the Republic of Ireland at under-17 and under-19 level. Birmingham born, he was in the Blues academy system before joining Stoke City in 2015. He was freed a year later and last season he had short spells with Solihull Moors, Southport and Gloucester City.

### Favourite

The latest arrival at Amblecote is 27-year-old attack-minded midfielder Danny O'Callaghan, who has been snapped up from Sutton Coldfield Town. He can also play in the 'number 10' role off the main striker and he notched twice against the Glassboys last season in different games.

O'Callaghan chalked up 133 appearances in two spells with Sutton, where he was a fans' favourite, either side of a brief move to AFC Telford in the summer of 2015.

The Glassboys have been further boosted with news that two of last season's stalwarts have re-signed. Central defender Jack Duggan, who scored the winner against Northampton Town in the FA Cup last December, has agreed to return, along with ex-Walsall, Sheffield United and Kilmarnock full-back Darryl Westlake.

Hackett said: "We are continuing to talk with our targets and working hard to get the people we want. As well as bringing in Aaron, Bobby and Danny this week, we've also been talking to last year's players and are close to announcing more of those who have agreed to stay with us."

## Kane feels able to make the cut



Kane Baker ready to pack a punch at The Venue in Dudley tomorrow night

KANE Baker is feeling light on his feet as he prepares to lace on the pro gloves again in Dudley tomorrow night (Friday).

The Brummie welterweight, from Bartley Green, is back in action at the Venue, taking on Yorkshireman Danny Little over four rounds.

The 26-year-old reckons he will make the 147lb cut easily, after staying in decent shape since his last contest at the same venue in April. Baker made it three points wins without reply when he defeated Dabbullah Ghaseemi.

Baker said: "I want to go up the levels by testing myself, training has gone well and I was a lot lighter than normal to begin with, so I've been able to concentrate on technique more."

A six-round contest between a big-punching Polish heavyweight Krzysztof Kosela and Stockport southpaw Chris Healey has been added to the bill and will act as chief support.

The main event has also been subject to change, with unbeaten 'Ruthless' Rowley Regis fighter Tyler Denny, aged 25, facing a new opponent for the British Challenge middleweight title because of Mike Byles' injury. Denny will now face Anthony Fox.

The under-card will see four-round action for Les Byfield, Kane Baker, Shaun Cooper and CJ Challenger. Tickets start at £35 on 07976 283 157 or from any of the home boxers on Facebook.



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